



House chairman asks IRS for 6 years of Trump's tax returns

By MARCY GORDON

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A

House committee chairman on Wednesday formally asked the IRS to provide six years of President Donald Trump's personal tax returns and the returns for some of his businesses as Democrats try to shed light on his complex financial dealings and potential conflicts of interest.

The request by Massachusetts Rep. Richard Neal, who heads the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee, is the first such demand for a sitting president's tax information in 45 years.

The unprecedented move is likely to set off a huge legal battle between Democrats controlling the House and the Trump administration.



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In this April 2, 2019, photo, House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal, D-Mass., arrives for a Democratic Caucus meeting at the Capitol in Washington.

Associated Press

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14 U.S. senators introduce bill on the crisis in Venezuela

By **LUIS ALONSO LUGO**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A bipartisan group of 14 U.S. senators introduced a bill Wednesday that they say will help restore democracy and address the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela.

Sen Bob Menendez, a Democrat from New Jersey, said the proposed legislation is "much more expansive" than the three bills on Venezuela adopted last week by the House of Representatives with bipartisan support.

The House bills would add new restrictions on the export of tear gas, riot gear and other items to Venezuela that could be used

for crime control; urge the Trump administration to provide up to \$150 million in humanitarian aid; and require the State Department and intelligence agencies to provide an assessment of the threat from Russian influence in the South American country.

The Senate bill would accelerate planning at international financial institutions for Venezuela's reconstruction, authorize \$400 million in new humanitarian assistance and formally recognize and support efforts by Venezuelan opposition leader Juan Guaidó to restore democracy.

It also would remove sanctions on designated Ven-



Residents collect water from a ditch next to a highway in Caracas, Venezuela, Tuesday, April 2, 2019.

ezuelans not involved in human rights abuse if they recognize Guaidó as the country's interim president, something the U.S. and about 50 other governments have done. They contend Nicolas Maduro's re-election as president last year was not legitimate. The U.S. has revoked dozens of visas and imposed multiple rounds of sanctions

as part of a campaign to force Maduro to turn over power to Guaidó.

The Senate proposal does not include the "all options are on the table" language used by the White House when referring to its Venezuela policy, even though U.S. officials have said Washington is not pursuing a military option at this time.

Menendez told reporters in a conference call that he is optimistic about the prospects for the bill in the Senate, citing backing from Sen. James Risch, an Idaho Republican who is chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. He said Risch voiced support for the measure as long as Menendez and Republican Sen Marco Rubio of Florida remain among its sponsors. The 14 senators introduced their bill one day after over 40 organizations sent letters to members of Congress urging support for dialogue to resolve the crisis in Venezuela and opposing the sanctions imposed by the Trump administration.

"We call on you to take a strong, public stand against these immoral, reckless, and illegal policies and to support efforts to advance peaceful dialogue, before it is too late," the letter said. □

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Bill introduced to help publishers bargain with tech giants

NEW YORK (AP) — News publishers would gain greater power to negotiate terms with Facebook and Google under terms of a bill filed Wednesday in the House of Representatives. The proposal aims to give newspaper and digital publishers who have been struggling financially the right to bargain collectively with the tech giants. The publishing group says revenue has plummeted by \$31 billion since 2006, due primarily to the disappearance of advertising. Publishers are more optimistic about the legislation, which has failed in the past, because it now has bipar-



The Dome of the U.S. Capitol Building is visible as cherry blossom trees bloom on the West Lawn, Saturday, March 30, 2019, in Washington.

Associated Press

tisan support. Congress in general has been taking a

greater interest in the tech giants' operations. □



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House chairman asks IRS for 6 years of Trump's tax returns

Continued from Front

Neal made the request in a letter to IRS Commissioner Charles Rettig, asking for Trump's personal and business returns for 2013 through 2018. He asked for the documents in seven days, setting an April 10 deadline.

Trump told reporters Wednesday he "would not be inclined" to provide his tax returns to the committee.

An IRS spokesman said the agency had no immediate comment on Neal's request.

Democrats insist that obtaining Trump's tax filings falls within their mandate of congressional oversight. Republicans have denounced it as a political witch hunt and invoked privacy concerns.

"We have completed the necessary groundwork for a request of this magnitude, and I am certain we are within our legitimate legislative, legal and oversight rights," Neal said in a statement Wednesday evening.

Rep. Kevin Brady of Texas, the senior Republican on the Ways and Means panel, denounced the move as "an abuse of the tax-writing committees' statutory authority."

"Weaponizing our nation's tax code by targeting political foes sets a dangerous precedent and weakens Americans' privacy rights," Brady wrote in a letter Wednesday to Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, who oversees the IRS. "As you know, by law all Ameri-

cans have a fundamental right to the privacy of the personal information found in their tax returns."

The legal battle set to ensue could take years to resolve, possibly stretching beyond the 2020 presidential election.

Trump broke with decades of tradition for presidential candidates by refusing to release his income tax filings during his 2016 campaign. He has said he won't release them because he is being audited, even though IRS officials have said taxpayers under audit are free to release their returns. Trump claimed at a news conference following the November election that the filings are too complex for people to understand.

The IRS has a policy of auditing the tax returns of all sitting presidents and vice presidents, "yet little is known about the effectiveness of this program," Neal said in the statement. "On behalf of the American people, the Ways and Means Committee must determine if that policy is being followed, and if so, whether these audits are conducted fully and appropriately."

Neal is one of only three congressional officials authorized under to make a written request to the Treasury secretary for anyone's tax returns. The Internal Revenue Service is part of the Treasury Department. A rarely used 1924 law says the Treasury chief "shall furnish" the requested material to members of the Ways and Means Committee for

them to examine behind closed doors.

A spokesman for Mnuchin didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Mnuchin suggested in testimony to Congress last month that he would protect Trump's privacy if the House Democrats requested his tax returns. "We will examine the request and we will follow the law ... and we will protect the president as we would protect any taxpayer" regarding their right to privacy, Mnuchin said. □



House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Richard Neal, D-Mass., arrives for a Democratic Caucus meeting at the Capitol in Washington, on April 2, 2019.

Associated Press

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House Judiciary panel approves subpoenas for Mueller report

By **MARY CLARE JALONICK**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Judiciary Committee approved subpoenas Wednesday for special counsel Robert Mueller's full Russia report as Democrats pressure the Justice Department to release the document without redactions.

The committee voted 24-17 to give Judiciary Chairman Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., permission to issue subpoenas to the Justice Department for the final report, its exhibits and any underlying evidence or materials prepared for Mueller's investigation. Nadler has not yet said if he'll send the subpoenas, which would be the first step in a potentially long fight with the Justice Department over the ma-



House Judiciary Committee Chair Jerrold Nadler, D-N.Y., surrounded by his staff, passes a resolution to subpoena special counsel Robert Mueller's full report, on Capitol Hill in Washington, Wednesday, April 3, 2019.

Associated Press

terials.

The Judiciary panel also voted Wednesday to authorize subpoenas related to five of President Donald Trump's former top advisers, stepping up a separate,

wide-ranging investigation into Trump and his personal and political dealings.

On the Mueller report, House Democrats had given Attorney General William Barr until Tuesday

to provide an unredacted version to Congress, along with underlying materials. The Justice Department ignored that deadline, with Barr telling committee chairmen in a letter last week that he was in the process of redacting portions of the almost 400-page report and it would be released by mid-April, "if not sooner."

The vote further escalates the Democrats' battle with the Justice Department over how much of the report they will be able to see, a fight that could eventually head to court if the two sides can't settle their differences through negotiation. Democrats have said they will not accept redactions and want to see the evidence unfiltered by Barr. In the letter last week, Barr said he is scrubbing the report to avoid disclosing any grand jury information or classified material, in addition to portions of the report that pertain to ongoing investigations or that "would unduly infringe on the personal privacy and reputational interests of peripheral third parties." Democrats say they want access to all of that information, even if some of it can't be disclosed to the public. Nadler said he will give Barr time to change his mind on redactions, but if they cannot reach an agreement they will issue the subpoenas "in very short order." He also said he is prepared to go to court to get the grand jury information.

"This committee requires the full report and the underlying materials because it is our job, not the attorney general's, to determine whether or not President Trump has abused his office," Nadler said. The five former Trump advisers

who could receive subpoenas are strategist Steve Bannon, communications director Hope Hicks, chief of staff Reince Priebus, White House counsel Donald McGahn and counsel Ann Donaldson. Donaldson served as McGahn's chief of staff before both left the administration.

The five were key witnesses in Mueller's probe of possible obstruction of justice and were sent document requests by the Judiciary panel last month, along with dozens of other people connected to Trump. Nadler said he is concerned about reports that documents relevant to Mueller's investigation "were sent outside the White House," meaning the committee should have access to them because they may not be covered by executive privilege.

The top Republican on the Judiciary panel, Georgia Rep. Doug Collins, said at the vote that the five subpoenas are misguided because two of the individuals have already provided 3,000 documents to the committee and that the other three have indicated a willingness to cooperate. Collins said the authorization for all of the subpoenas is "reckless" and that Democrats shouldn't be asking for documents that the Justice Department can't legally disclose to the public. The committee rejected a GOP amendment that would have blocked the subpoenas from applying to grand jury information.

"We have a pre-emptive chairman who has gone out with pre-emptive subpoenas today on a report that has already been promised him," Collins said. "This is nothing but political theater." □

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Indiana governor signs hate crimes measure into law

By **RICK CALLAHAN**

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb signed legislation Wednesday aimed at getting Indiana off a list of five states without a hate crimes law, saying that the conservative Midwestern state has “made progress and taken a strong stand against targeted violence.”

The Republican governor signed the measure into law one day after the GOP-dominated state Senate voted 34-14 to approve the bill's bias crimes language. Several Democratic senators urged its defeat, saying it falls short of what's needed because its language does not explicitly cover age, sex or gender identity. The bill's passage and Holcomb's signing it into law comes after repeated attempts to pass a bias crimes law in Indiana failed amid fierce opposition from conservatives who said it would unfairly create specially-protected classes of victims and wrongly restrict free speech.

Holcomb had pushed for more comprehensive legislation with an enumerated list of traits that include gender and gender identity. But he and other Republicans argued that the measure covers all 6.6 million Hoosiers because it



In this Jan. 15, 2019 file photo, Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb delivers his State of the State address to a joint session of the legislature at the Statehouse in Indianapolis.

Associated Press

covers all characteristics and traits, whether expressly listed or not.

Holcomb said in a statement after signing the legislation, which takes effect July 1, that “our goal was to achieve a comprehensive law that protects those who are the targets of bias crimes, and we have accomplished just that.”

“We have made progress and taken a strong stand against targeted violence. I am confident our judges will increase punishment for those who commit crimes motivated by bias under this law,” he said in his statement.

The Anti-Defamation League lists Indiana as one of five states, along with Georgia, South Carolina, Wyoming and Arkansas,

without hate crimes protections.

It's unclear whether the law will result in Indiana being removed from that list. The ADL said Friday that the legislation “does not meet our standard for a real and effective hate crimes bill in 2019.”

Jessica Gall, the co-Interim regional director of ADL Midwest, did not immediately reply to messages left Wednesday asking whether the new law is sufficient to get Indiana off its list.

But Gall said in a statement earlier Wednesday that the ADL does not consider Indiana's law “to be an adequate hate crimes law.”

“The failure to explicitly list gender identity, gender, or sex is unacceptable. In addition, the overbroad

and vague language of SB 198 dilutes the legislation's ostensible intent and prevents it from being a real hate crimes law,” she said in her statement.

Indiana's law will allow judges to impose longer sentences for crimes motivated by bias and refers to Indiana's bias crimes reporting statute that mentions color, creed, disability, national origin, race, religion and sexual orientation, but doesn't explicitly cover age, sex or gender identity.

The law, however, says bias can also be considered due to the “victim's or the group's real or perceived characteristic, trait, belief, practice, association, or other attribute.”

A former Indiana Supreme Court justice, Frank Sullivan, Jr., said in a letter he sent Wednesday to Holcomb that the law's language “is legally sufficient” to enable Indiana trial court judges to impose harsher sentences, including “for a crime committed with bias due to the victim's gender or gender identity.”

“Just because a characteristic or trait is not specifically listed does not prevent it from being used to impose a harsher sentence ... Indiana now joins as it should the mainstream of states in punishing crimes of bias,”

wrote Sullivan, who was appointed to Indiana's high court in 1993 by Democratic Gov. Evan Bayh and retired in 2012.

A Senate committee had passed another hate crimes bill in February, but a few days later the state Senate stripped out a list of specific protected traits, including sexual orientation, gender identity and race.

Members of the House voted 57-39 last week to advance the legislation after new language was added to an unrelated bill.

House Speaker Brian Bosma said Tuesday that the legislation “meets or exceeds” bias crimes statutes on the books in 21 other states “and all of those states are off the list of states without a bias crimes law.”

“There's no reasonable assertion as to why this all-inclusive measure doesn't take Indiana off the list,” he said in a statement.

In 2015, then-Gov. Mike Pence signed a religious protections law that critics widely panned as sanctioning of discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people. After the state faced boycott threats, lawmakers made changes to the law to prevent it from being used to justify discrimination against LGBT people in the state. □

Federal agency to investigate Texas chemical plant fire

CROSBY, Texas (AP) — The U.S. Chemical Safety Board announced Wednesday that it will investigate a fire at a Houston area chemical plant as the facility's operator identified the worker killed in the blaze.

James Earl Mangum was killed in the Tuesday fire at a KMCO chemical plant in Crosby, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) northeast of Houston, a company spokesman said. The two other workers who were injured during the blaze remain in critical condition. Their identities were not re-

leased. An autopsy found that Mangum's accidental death was caused by “sharp force injuries” that cut a major artery and vein in his right arm, a spokesman for Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences said.

The Chemical Safety Board, an independent federal agency that investigates industrial chemical incidents, said it will join other agencies probing the cause of the deadly fire. It is also investigating the March 17 blaze at a petrochemical storage facility in

nearby Deer Park.

All operations at the KMCO plant are suspended indefinitely and the site is under control of Texas fire officials, according to the company.

Fire investigators haven't yet been able to enter the plant because of ongoing clean up and emergency operations, said Rachel Moreno of the Harris County Fire Marshal's Office.

County officials said Wednesday that ongoing air monitoring shows no health risks to the area around the plant. □



This aerial photo shows the KMCO chemical plant as firefighters spray water on a fire on Tuesday, April 2, 2019, in Crosby, Texas.

Associated Press

LGBT progress seen in Lightfoot's win, rise of 'Mayor Pete'



This combination of 2019 photos shows newly-elected Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot, left; and Democratic presidential candidate, South Bend, Ind. Mayor Pete Buttigieg.

By **DAVID CRARY**
AP National Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — "Mayor Pete," as he's known to his growing fan base, is running a surprisingly strong and well-funded campaign for president. Lori Lightfoot has just won a landslide victory to become Chicago's mayor.

Together, the ascendance of Lightfoot and Pete Buttigieg — the two-term mayor of South Bend, Indiana — highlights the remarkable progress made recently by gay and lesbian politicians, to the point where their sexual orientation is either an asset or a nonissue. Both Lightfoot and Buttigieg have talked comfortably about LGBT issues and their own same-sex marriages. "The real news is not that openly gay candidates are successful, but that being openly gay has become irrelevant," said Richard Socarides, a former Clinton White House adviser on gay issues.

"Here are two people with fresh ideas and a new vision for the future," Socarides said. "Voters don't care about their sexual orientation. That's a sea change." It was only in 1998 that Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin

became the first openly gay person to gain a seat in the House of Representatives. There are now eight LGBT members of the House, and two in the Senate — Baldwin and Arizona's Kyrsten Sinema, whose bisexuality never became an issue in her closely contested election campaign last year.

Lightfoot's victory Tuesday in the third-largest U.S. city, along with lesbian Satya Rhodes-Conway's victory in Madison, Wisconsin, brings the number of LGBT mayors to 37, according to the LGBTQ Victory Fund, which recruits and supports LGBT candidates. In Colorado, Jared Polis was inaugurated in January as the nation's first openly gay governor.

Annise Parker, a lesbian who served three terms as mayor of Houston and is now CEO of the Victory Fund, said LGBT candidates such as Polis and Lightfoot "are achieving positions that cause folks to sit up and take notice."

"It's not a fluke or an oddity," she said. "These are dedicated, hardworking public servants who bring a directness and integrity to their service ... They're be-

ing open about who they are." Buttigieg — at 37, the youngest prominent contender in the Democratic presidential race — has received rave reviews for many of his public appearances and reported raising \$7 million in the first fundraising period of the campaign. His husband, Chasten, has amassed 176,000 Twitter followers with cheerful and sometimes wry commentary about their relationship and their dogs, and has been invited to headline a gala being held Saturday in Houston by the Human Rights Campaign, a national LGBT rights group. Shannon Minter, legal director of the National Center for Lesbian Rights, said Lightfoot's and Buttigieg's appeal is based on "character, leadership and ideas."

Yet Minter also suggested that LGBT candidates may have certain distinctive strengths. "They may be more likely to empathize with others who have experienced discrimination or obstacles," he said. "They may also be more likely to cherish the opportunity to run for office and serve, something other politicians may take for granted."

One indicator of the shifts in LGBT politics is that Lightfoot, a former prosecutor, and Buttigieg, a Harvard graduate, Rhodes scholar and Afghanistan war veteran, have not been immune to criticism from some activists.

"For many members of the LGBTQ community, a candidate's mere identity as gay or lesbian is not enough," said professor Katherine Franke, who teaches gender and sexuality studies at Columbia University.

"Neither Lightfoot nor Buttigieg are particularly progressive in their policy positions on a number of issues," Franke said. "Lightfoot has been criticized for being too pro-prosecution and pro-police in a city that has suffered significant police violence, and Buttigieg has been critiqued for his identification with elites."

Thus far, the advancement of LGBT politicians has not been a bipartisan phenomenon. Very few of the nation's top-tier LGBT elected officials have been Republicans, and only a handful of Republicans in Congress have signaled support for the Equality Act, a sweeping LGBT-nondiscrimination

measure that has near-unanimous Democratic support.

"It's exceedingly frustrating," Parker said. "We'd love to support more candidates in the GOP, but the party of Donald Trump has no place for them. It has chosen to attack the rights and livelihoods of LGBT people to solidify political power."

Tyler Deaton of the American Unity Fund, which seeks to boost support for LGBT rights among Republicans, acknowledged in an email that LGBT Democrats "are having an amazing year."

"It's a lesson to my fellow Republicans about the electability of LGBTQ candidates," he wrote. "The party needs to look more like the voters, which includes recruiting and elevating more candidates who are women, people of color, religious minorities, and LGBTQ people."

The flip side is a boon for the Democratic establishment, which courts financial and political support from LGBT activists and donors. Just last week, two Democratic presidential contenders — Sens. Kamala Harris of California and Cory Booker of New Jersey — spoke at a West Coast gala held by the Human Rights Campaign.

For some LGBT activists, the pace of change — and the greater public acceptance of LGBT candidates — is dramatic.

Lawyer Roberta Kaplan reflected that only six years ago she was litigating before the U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of Edie Windsor, who faced an enormous tax bill because she was married to a woman instead of a man. Two years later, in 2015, the high court legalized same-sex marriage nationwide.

"The traditional Jewish blessing thanks God for keeping us alive, sustaining us, and bringing us to this season," Kaplan said in an email. "That is very much how I feel today when I see news like Lori Lightfoot's victory in Chicago or Pete Buttigieg's candidacy for president." □



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14-year-old says he is Illinois boy who went missing in 2011

By COREY WILLIAMS AND CARYN ROUSSEAU

A 14-year-old boy who said he escaped from two kidnappers in Ohio told authorities he is from Illinois, where he went missing nearly eight years ago when his mother apparently took her own life.

Police in suburban Cincinnati's Sharonville wrote in a short incident report that the teen said Wednesday morning that he had "just escaped from two kidnappers" he described as white men with body builder-type physiques. They were in a Ford SUV with Wisconsin license plates and had been staying at a Red Roof Inn. The boy, who identified himself as Timmothy Pitzen, told police that after his escape he "kept running across a bridge into" Kentucky. Timmothy Pitzen was six when he disappeared in 2011 after authorities said his mother took her own life in a Rockford, Illinois, hotel. Police in the Chicago suburb of Aurora said Wednesday afternoon that the department is sending two detectives to the Cincinnati area. Aurora police don't know if the boy he has any connection to Pitzen, Aurora Police Sgt. Bill Rowley said.

Police believe Amy Fry-Pitzen, 43, picked up her son from school and took him to the zoo and a Wisconsin water park before she apparently killed herself. Her body was found with her wrists slit on May 15, 2011. Fry-Pitzen left a note saying her son was fine. Police investigating her death said she took steps that suggest she might have, as she said in her note, dropped her son off with a friend.



This undated photo provided by the Aurora, Ill., Police Department shows missing child, Timmothy Pitzen.

Associated Press

"We've probably had thousands of tips of him popping up in different areas," Rowley said. "We have no idea what we're driving down there for. It could be Pitzen. It could be a hoax." The FBI said in a Wednesday afternoon statement that its offices in Louisville and Cincinnati were working on a missing child investigation with Aurora police and police departments in Cincinnati and Newport, Kentucky, and the Hamilton County Sheriff's Office in Ohio. The FBI offered no other details.

Sharonville police said on the department's Facebook page that the information about the boy's reported escape was received by police in Campbell County, Kentucky.

"The City of Sharonville Police Department, like every other police agency in the greater Cincinnati area, was requested to check their Red Roof Inn hotels regarding this incident," the Facebook post read. "To the best of our knowledge, we have no information indicating that the missing juvenile was ever in the City of Sharonville." □

3 Midwest states demand more power over river after floods

By MARGERY A. BECK

Associated Press

COUNCIL BLUFFS, Iowa (AP) — Three Midwestern

Republican governors of states ravaged by recent flooding on Wednesday demanded more authority over management of the Missouri River system.

Following a meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts and Missouri Gov. Mike Parson were critical of the federal body that manages the river, saying it should prioritize flood control over other goals, such as protecting fish and wildlife habitat.

"One thing is clear: Something needs to change," said Parson, who pointed to increasing damage from flooding over the last decade with no solutions in sight.

The governors said they plan to work together for that change, even if it means petitioning Congress to give states more authority in river management.

Ricketts complained that even when funding for reinforcement of levees is approved, it's often years before the work is actually done. In some cases, flooding repeats before the work even starts. "That permitting process has got to be faster," he said.

Reynolds said the governors would be presenting a united front to the federal government in demanding more authority.

"We can't continue to do things like build a temporary levee that would protect a community, and after the Corps deems the flood incident over, require them to tear it down," she



Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds, left, Nebraska Gov. Pete Ricketts, right, and Missouri Gov. Mike Parson, center, participate in a news conference in Council Bluffs, Iowa, Wednesday, April 3, 2019.

Associated Press

said

Asked whether the Corps indicated it would or could cede some river management decisions to the states, Parson replied, "Well, they listened."

Kansas Gov. Laura Kelly, a Democrat, also was scheduled to attend but had transportation problems and did not make it.

The Corps has said it works to balance all its priorities and that much of the flooding was well out of its control. The agency said that much of the water that created the flooding came from record rains and melting snow that flowed over frozen ground and directly into the river downstream of its dams, all while massive amounts of water filled Missouri River reservoirs and had to be released.

On Wednesday, the Corps released numbers showing record March runoff in the upper Missouri River Basin above Sioux City, Iowa, of 11 million acre feet — nearly 4 million acre feet more than the previous record of 7.3 million set in 1952. The average March upper basin runoff is 2.9 million acre feet, the Corps said.

Officials have estimated that the flooding caused nearly \$1.4 billion in damage in Nebraska and more than \$1.6 billion in Iowa. That includes an estimated \$1 billion of damage to farms in both states, where flooding destroyed stored crops, tore up land and equipment and killed livestock. Thousands of homes and businesses have been damaged or destroyed in Nebraska alone. The damage total is expected to grow as more assessments are made.

Kansas and Missouri officials are still waiting on damage estimates, although Kansas officials say that state saw flood damage limited to about 31,000 acres of mostly farmland and some stored grain. In Missouri, the surging river caused dozens of levee breaches that inundated about 168,000 acres in Missouri's two hardest-hit counties of Holt and Atchison.

Officials have said the March floods could be just the beginning of a rough spring, as hefty snowpack in the northern Plains adds to already swollen rivers and streams. □

UK legislates to avert chaotic Brexit as May seeks new plan



In this grab taken from video, Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May speaks during Prime Minister's Questions in the House of Commons, London, Wednesday April 3, 2019.

By **JILL LAWLESS**
RAF CASERT

Associated Press

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Brexit drama went into overtime Wednesday as Prime Minister Theresa May and the country's main opposition sought a compromise deal to prevent an abrupt British departure from the European Union at the end of next week.

In an about-face that left pro-Brexit members of May's Conservative Party howling with outrage, the prime minister sought to forge an agreement with left-wing Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn after failing three times to win Parliament's backing for her Brexit deal.

May also said she would ask the EU for a further delay to Britain's departure date — postponed once already — to avert a chaotic and economically damaging no-deal Brexit on April 12. Skeptical lawmakers, reluctant to take her word for it, approved a hastily crafted law that compels May to ask for an extension to the Brexit deadline if a no-deal departure is looming.

"The country needs a solution, the country deserves a solution, and that's what I'm working to find," May

told lawmakers before meeting with Corbyn for about two hours.

Afterward, both the government and Labour called the meeting "constructive" and said their teams would hold more in-depth talks Thursday.

May's office said both sides had shown "flexibility and a commitment to bring the current Brexit uncertainty to a close."

Corbyn, more muted, said "the meeting was useful but inconclusive."

"There hasn't been as much change as I expected," he said.

May's change of direction left her caught between angry Conservatives who accuse her of throwing away Brexit, and Labour opponents mistrustful of her sudden change of heart.

Labour lawmaker Paul Sweeney said May's outreach to his party "shows the desperation that she's in."

Pro-Brexit Conservatives, meanwhile, expressed outrage. Two junior ministers quit, and other lawmakers angrily accused May of putting the socialist Corbyn in the Brexit driver's seat.

Her cross-party talks — after almost three years of seeking to push through her

own version of a Brexit divorce deal — came amid EU warnings that a damaging withdrawal without a plan was growing more likely by the day.

After lawmakers three times rejected an agreement struck between the bloc and May late last year, the leaders of the EU's 27 remaining countries postponed the original March 29 Brexit date and gave the U.K. until April 12 to approve the divorce deal or come up with a new one. So far the House of Commons has failed to find a majority for any alternative plan.

"A no deal on 12 April at midnight looks more and more likely," European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said Wednesday, adding that would bring disruption for EU citizens and businesses, but much worse economic damage for Britain.

EU Economy Commissioner Pierre Moscovici said a "no-deal" Brexit would mean long lines at borders and paperwork headaches for customs checks on the 11,000 vehicles entering and leaving Britain each day.

Bank of England Governor Mark Carney warned

that, even though Britain and the EU both wanted to avoid a no-deal Brexit, it remained the legal default position, and the risk of Britain accidentally crashing out was "alarmingly high." Carney told Sky News that claims by pro-Brexit politicians that such a situation could be managed were "absolute nonsense."

May's pivot toward Labour points Britain toward a softer Brexit than the one she has championed since British voters decided in June 2016 to leave the EU. Labour wants the U.K. to remain in the EU's customs union — a trading area that sets common tariffs on imports to the bloc while allowing free trade in goods moving between member states.

May has always ruled that out, saying it would limit Britain's ability to forge an independent trade policy. May's decision to negotiate with Corbyn is risky for both the Conservatives and Labour, and could widen divisions over Brexit that run through both parties.

Labour is formally committed to enacting the voters' decision to leave the EU, but many of the party's lawmakers want a new ref-

erendum that could keep Britain in the bloc. They will be angry if the party actively helps bring about the U.K.'s departure.

Meanwhile, May's move infuriated pro-Brexit Conservatives who say Britain must make a clean break with the EU in order to take control of its laws and trade policy.

Former Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said Brexit "is becoming soft to the point of disintegration."

Junior Wales Minister Nigel Adams quit his post, criticizing May for seeking a deal with "a Marxist who has never once in his political life put British interests first" — a reference to the left-wing Corbyn.

He was followed by junior Brexit minister Chris Heaton-Harris, who said in his resignation letter that the government "should have honored the result of the 2016 referendum" and left the EU on March 29.

Meanwhile, pro-EU lawmakers were not banking on talks between May and Corbyn succeeding. The House of Commons on Wednesday approved a bill to ensure May can't go back on her promise to seek a delay to Brexit rather than let Britain tumble out of the bloc.

The bill, debated and approved in a single day, compels May to seek to extend the Brexit process beyond April 12 in order to prevent a no-deal departure. In a reflection of how divided lawmakers are over Brexit, it passed by a single vote, 313-312.

The bill still needs approval from the House of Lords, Parliament's unelected upper chamber — likely on Thursday. And it does not force the EU to agree to delay Brexit.

EU leaders, weary of the whole Brexit circus, gave a cautious welcome to May's attempt at rapprochement.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she would work "until the last hour" to secure an orderly Brexit, but stressed that "these solutions have to be reached above all in Britain itself." □

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Australian senator censured for blaming Muslim victims

By ROD McGUIRK

Associated Press

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)

— An Australian senator was censured by his colleagues on Wednesday for seeking to blame the victims of last month's mosque shootings and vilify Muslims. Sen. Fraser Anning was the target of widespread condemnation for blaming the attack in New Zealand on immigration policies. He faced more criticism later for physically striking a teenager who cracked a raw egg on his head in a viral incident in Melbourne. On Parliament's second sitting day since the March 15 attack in which 50 people died, government and opposition lawmakers moved the censure motion against Anning for divisive comments "seeking to attribute blame to victims of a horrific crime and to vilify people on the basis of religion, which do not reflect the opinions of the Australian



Australian Senator Fraser Anning gives a speech in Parliament House in Canberra, Australia, Wednesday, April 3, 2019.

Associated Press

Senate or the Australian people." "Sen. Anning's comments were ugly and divisive. They were dangerous and unacceptable from anyone, let alone a member of this place," Government Senate Leader Mathias Cormann told the Senate. Anning dismissed the censure motion as an attack on free speech. "It is also an exercise in left-wing vir-

tue signaling of the worst kind," he told the Senate before the vote. He sits as an independent lawmaker after defecting from the anti-Muslim One Nation party, whose two senators abstained from the censure vote. One Nation Sen. Peter Georgiou read a speech on behalf of party leader Pauline Hanson, who was absent.

Hanson said while Anning's comments were "untimely and therefore deemed highly insensitive, he still maintains a right to his opinion."

"If One Nation endorses your action to censure Sen. Anning, your freedom of speech as elected members of this chamber will be removed," the speech said.

A day after the Christchurch attacks, Anning faced more criticism for physically striking the teenager who cracked an egg on his head at a Melbourne public appearance — 17-year-old Will Connolly, who became known around the world as "Egg Boy."

Anning on Wednesday criticized Prime Minister Scott Morrison for saying at the time that Anning should "be subject to the full force of the law" for his retaliation against Connolly. Police investigated the altercation but no charges have been

announced. "It might have only been an idiot with an egg this time, but there is a continuum that begins with this and ends with a fanatic with a gun or a bomb," Anning said.

"But apparently, according to Prime Minister Morrison, that's OK, as long as the victims are conservatives," he added.

The minor Greens party later failed to win majority support for a motion for the Senate to suspend Anning. Mehreen Faruqi, a Pakistan-born Greens senator, produced an online petition to the Senate with more than 1.4 million signatures calling for Anning to resign.

She argued that he should be suspended as well as censured.

An Irish-born lawmaker who criticized British policy toward his homeland in 1920 became the only Australian legislator to be expelled from Parliament by a vote of colleagues. □

Rome mayor promises race-hate probe after Roma protest

Associated Press

ROME (AP)

— Rome's mayor on Wednesday pledged an investigation into possible inciting racial hatred against the organizers of a violent protest that rejected housing Roma families in a neighborhood government-run center. Mayor Virginia Raggi described a "very heavy climate of hatred" during the Tuesday evening protest allegedly incited by two far-right groups, Casa Pound and Forza Nuova, against the arrival of the Roma



Police officers stand group of people during a protest organized by two far-right groups, Casa Pound and Forza Nuova, against the arrival of Roma families, on the outskirts of Rome, Tuesday, April 2, 2019.

Associated Press

families on the outskirts of Rome. She said the families, including 33 children, were being placed elsewhere in the meantime.

Sky TG24 video showed dozens of people setting up barricades to prevent the families from reaching the housing Tuesday, and a woman stomping on a tray of sandwiches set up for the new arrivals. As darkness fell, a car was set on fire, doused by firefighters. Raggi blamed both Casa Pound and Forza Nuova for creating a hostile climate in

the Torre Maura neighborhood, a low-income area on the eastern edge of the Italian capital.

One elderly resident who spoke on Sky TG24 without giving his name said it would be better to spread the Roma out not concentrate them in one area. Another accused Roma of carrying out robberies. Many in Italy's sizeable Roma community, also known as Gypsies, are Italian citizens but they still frequently face hostility if not outright discrimination. □

Palestinians are nowhere to be found in Israel's election

By JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — In a charged election campaign that has been heavy on insults and short on substance, Israel's conflict with the Palestinians has been notably absent from the discourse.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's ruling Likud Party has offered no plan for what many believe is the country's most existential problem. His main challenger in the April 9 vote speaks vaguely of "separation," while Netanyahu's hard-line partners speak openly of the once unthinkable idea of annexing all or parts of the West Bank. Talk of a Palestinian state, the international community's preferred solution for the past two decades, is non-existent.

It is a far cry from past elections, when peace with the Palestinians was the central issue for voters. This apparent lack of interest reflects widespread disillusionment in Israel over years of failed peace efforts.

But it also is a testament to Netanyahu's success in sidelining the issue. Capitalizing on internal Palestinian divisions and promoting sometimes contradictory policies, Netanyahu has succeeded in managing the conflict without addressing the bigger issue of how two intertwined peoples will live together in the future. Strong backing from the Trump administration has given him an extra boost.

"The peace track is currently in a coma," said Shmuel Rosner, a senior fellow at the Jewish People Policy Institute. "There's not much hope for a viable solution to be revived in the near future, so people can just keep pushing it aside until someday it comes back to haunt them."

Netanyahu took office in early 2009 and under heavy pressure from then-President Barack Obama reluctantly stated his support for an independent Palestinian state, albeit with many conditions, which were rejected.

Things quickly went downhill, and serious peace talks never took place during Obama's time in office.

With the peace process in a deep freeze, it is perhaps no surprise that none of the major Israeli parties are talk-

Palestinians reject.

The Israelis also point to the 2005 withdrawal from Gaza, which cleared the

country," he said.

Yohanan Plesner, president of the Israeli Democracy Institute and a former lawmaker, said he did not think Netanyahu would give in to the annexation calls.

"At the end of the day, West Bank annexation is the prerogative of the prime minister," he said.

Netanyahu's main challenger, former military chief Benny Gantz, has given Israel's "peace camp" some dim hope.

His Blue and White party's platform devotes just a few sentences to the Palestinians, promising "an open horizon for political settlement" and pledging to work with Arab neighbors to find a way to "deepen the separation."

It makes no mention of Palestinian statehood, and says Israel will continue to maintain control of parts of the West Bank and never divide Jerusalem.

Ghassan Khatib, a former Palestinian negotiator, said the lack of interest on the Israeli side is harmful to the Palestinians in the short term but much worse for Israel in the long term.

"It means the end of the two-state solution," he said. "The alternative will be an apartheid system, and this will cause huge damage to Israeli democracy and the image of Israel."

Yossi Beilin, one of the chief architects of Israel's historic 1993 interim peace agreement with the Palestinians, said Netanyahu's policies have been "devastating" for peace prospects.

Yet he remains confident the two-state solution will one day be adopted due to a lack of alternatives, and even believes that Gantz "for sure" will pursue a peace deal if elected.

Ironically, Trump's peace plan, if released, may force Netanyahu's hand, Beilin said. If elected, Netanyahu will have a hard time resisting his close friend's proposal while his hard-line coalition partners oppose any concessions to the Palestinians.

"The impact of the plan might be very interesting," Beilin said. □



In this Saturday, March 16, 2019 file photo, an Ultra-Orthodox Jewish man looks at an elections billboards of the Blue and White party leaders, alongside a panel on the right showing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu flanked by extreme right politicians, in a charged campaign on insults and short on substance.

Associated Press

Throughout his tenure, Netanyahu has repeatedly cast blame on the Palestinians, accusing President Mahmoud Abbas, who seeks a negotiated settlement with Israel, of incitement and promoting "terror."

At the same time, he has maintained behind-the-scenes security cooperation with Abbas' forces in the West Bank in a joint struggle against the Hamas militant group.

In the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip, Netanyahu has engaged in frequent rounds of fighting, but is also conducting behind-the-scenes negotiations with his bitter enemy in hopes of maintaining calm. The Trump administration has further sidelined the Palestinians by cutting hundreds of millions of dollars in aid and recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital, prompting the Palestinians to sever ties with the U.S. A long-promised peace plan, which the White House says will be released after the election, faces dim prospects, if it is even released.

ing about the Palestinians. "The Palestinian cause is totally absent in the Israeli elections, and when it comes, it comes only in a negative context," said Ahmed Majdalani, a senior Palestinian official.

"This is worrisome, because it tells us that we are going from bad to worse."

The Palestinians seek the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip — areas captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast war — for an independent state. The so-called two-state solution is widely backed internationally as the best way to end the conflict.

If Israel continues to rule over millions of Palestinians, the thinking goes, the Palestinians will eventually abandon their dream of statehood and instead demand Israeli citizenship and full equality.

In such a scenario, Israel would no longer be able to be both Jewish and democratic.

Israelis accuse the Palestinians of rejecting generous peace offers, most recently in late 2008, a narrative the

way for Hamas to seize power from Abbas' forces two years later.

Ahead of the election, several religious and nationalist parties, along with individual members of Netanyahu's Likud party, have openly called for annexing parts or all of the West Bank. These plans include a range of proposals for the Palestinians, including non-voting residency rights, possible citizenship or financial incentives to emigrate.

It remains unclear how hard these parties, all potential coalition partners for Netanyahu, will push, though Trump's recent recognition of Israel's annexation of the occupied Golan Heights has led to stepped-up calls for annexing West Bank territory.

Likud spokesman Eli Hazan said he does not expect annexation to be on the agenda.

He said the party "strongly believes" in the status quo. "We are against the one-state solution and two-state solution. Both ways may lead to the end of Israel as a Jewish and democratic

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Brunei invokes laws allowing stoning for gay sex, adultery

By ANNABELLE LIANG

Associated Press

SINGAPORE (AP) — New Islamic criminal laws that took effect in Brunei on Wednesday, punishing gay sex and adultery by stoning offenders to death, have triggered an outcry from countries, rights groups and celebrities far beyond the tiny Southeast Asian nation's shores.

The penalties were provided for under new sections of Brunei's Shariah Penal Code. Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah instituted the code in 2014 to bolster the influence of Islam in the oil-rich monarchy of around 430,000 people, two-thirds of whom are Muslim.

Even before 2014, homosexuality was already punishable in Brunei by a jail term of up to 10 years. The first stage of the Shariah Penal Code included fines or jail for offenses such as pregnancy out of wedlock or failing to pray on Fridays. But under the new laws — which also apply to children and foreigners, even if they are not Muslim — those found guilty of gay sex can be stoned to death or whipped. Adulterers risk



In this Oct. 10, 2013, photo, Brunei's Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah speaks during the closing ceremony and handover of the ASEAN Chairmanship to Myanmar in Bandar Seri Begawan.

Associated Press

death by stoning too, while thieves face amputation of a right hand on their first offense and a left foot on their second.

"Living in Brunei, we already knew that our sexual identity is taboo and should not be expressed. We already felt belittled before the law came to place," said a 23-year-old member of the LGBTQ community who wanted to be identified only as Kun out of fear of reprisal from the authorities.

"Now with it, we feel even smaller and the ones who could potentially oppress us have more opportunity to harass us to say and do what they want," he said.

Celebrities including George Clooney, Elton John and Ellen DeGeneres have voiced opposition to the new laws, and have rallied a boycott of nine hotels in the U.S. and Europe with ties to Hassanal, who is still sultan.

"Are we really going to

help fund the murder of innocent citizens?" Clooney wrote Thursday on Deadline Hollywood.

Clooney said that while you can't shame "murderous regimes," you can shame "the banks, the financiers and the institutions that do business with them."

Customers at two prestigious Paris hotels owned by the sultan expressed their support for a boycott.

Outside the Le Meurice hotel, Philippe Ménager said he was no longer comfortable going to the spa after being a regular customer for 15 years.

"I can't continue to be a frequent visitor of the hotels of this savage to preserve the jobs of the people who work at Le Meurice - who are very nice and I like them," he said.

A tourist from Norway, Anja Anderson, said she would have stayed at a hotel other than the Plaza Athénée had she heard about the boycott before making her reservation.

There has been no vocal opposition to the new penalties in Brunei, where the sultan rules as head of state with full executive author-

ity. Public criticism of his policies is extremely rare in the country.

Hassanal, who has reigned since 1967, has previously said the Penal Code should be regarded as a form of "special guidance" from God and would be "part of the great history" of Brunei. On Tuesday, the United States joined the United Kingdom, Germany and France in urging Brunei to halt its plans.

Brunei's Southeast Asian neighbors, some of whom have laws banning sex between men, were silent.

But LGBTQ citizens of other nearby Muslim-majority countries were concerned about the broad penalties.

"I am very worried that Indonesia or Malaysia may follow the lead," said a 24-year-old man from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia's capital, who wanted to be identified only by his first name, Ludwig. "I think people nowadays, especially the younger generation, are quite OK with LGBT, but those who are not make the loudest noise and they are the reason why it seems like everyone is against it." □

Kazakhstan leader Tokayev in Moscow for 1st foreign visit

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) —

Kazakhstan's interim president is making his first foreign visit since being appointed two weeks ago, meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow.

Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, formerly the speaker of

the upper house of Kazakhstan's parliament, was named the country's leader after the unexpected resignation of Nursultan Nazarbayev, who had been in power since the country became independent from the Soviet Union in 1991.

Tokayev is likely to continue

Nazarbayev's strategy of maintaining close relations with Russia while still cultivating Western countries.

Tokayev called his nation's ties with Russia "a model relationship" at the meeting Wednesday and says "my task is to make sure this strategy remains in place." □



Kazakhstan's interim President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev enters a hall for his talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin in the Kremlin in Moscow, Russia, Wednesday, April 3, 2019.

Associated Press

For Venezuela's 1 percent, a lavish wedding amid crisis

By **LUIS ANDRES HENAO**

Associated Press

ACARIGUA, Venezuela (AP) — It was the sort of celebration that's become rare in troubled Venezuela:

a lavish destination wedding of two young entrepreneurs at a dude ranch on the country's vast tropical plains, a region known for its rugged cowboys on horseback rounding up cattle — and where camps like this one cater to the nation's ever-diminishing elite. Over three days, guests, including a former Miss Universe, wealthy landowners and others among Venezuela's 1 percent, emptied bottles of expensive whiskey, herded water buffalo on horseback and stomped their feet to the sound of a popular country music crooner.

"This is not the real Venezuela," a waiter noted at one point during the back-to-back partying.

But even at this destination reserved for the wealthy in a nation in the throes of economic crisis, reality intruded, at least for a while. A local children's hospital was in disrepair, and the couple and their guests began by painting its crumbling walls.

"Hosting a celebration amid these circumstances is obviously tough, but that's why we did the work at the hospital," said the groom, Juan Jose Pocatererra, the 32-year-old co-founder and CEO of Vikua, a startup tech company whose name means "Quality of Life" and that Forbes magazine has called one of Latin America's most promising.

"For Juan and for me, who are entrepreneurs, it was very important to have this wedding here because we're betting on Venezuela," added 33-year-old bride Maria Fernanda Vera, the founder and CEO of Melao, a fashion company, who grew up in this region known as the "llanos." "We believe in Venezuela's reconstruction."

The oil-rich, once-prosperous nation, is reeling from the worst economic crisis in modern Latin American his-

tory. Some 3 million people, or nearly 10 percent of the population, have left the

country. Waiters in bow ties passed around cold beer and grilled cho-

who nearly lost an eye in anti-government protests. Many of the couple's close

set up a stage worthy of a rock concert.

Then came the lakeside wedding. Women in flowing summer dresses fanned themselves with delicately painted folding fans as they held pastel-colored parasols to shield themselves from the sun. Men wearing white shirts, suspenders, bow ties and beige pants donned Panama hats provided to the guests. Among the bridesmaids was 2009 Miss Universe Stefania Fernandez.

Maickel Melamed, a Venezuelan motivational speaker known for his TED Talks and marathon running despite suffering muscular dystrophy, officiated, joining the couple on a wooden pier to the sound of the Beatles' "Here Comes the Sun" and Disney's "A Whole New World."

As the sun set over the lake, Melamed asked the guests to close their eyes and "make a wish for the homeland that we all long for."

Back at the ranch, the partying began and the Johnnie Walker Black flowed. Some lined up for a buffet of beef, pork, yucca and cachapas, the sweet-corn crepes filled with rich white cheese popular in Venezuela. More than 110 pounds (50 kilograms) of cheese were brought in for the event. Others hit the dance floor until past 4 a.m.

For a politically active former Miss Universe, it was the first time back home in years. In 2014, Fernandez joined other celebrities, artists and sports figures in a campaign called "Gagged in Venezuela" to protest restrictions on freedom of expression. She posed wearing a crown, her face blackened and appearing bloodied, a rope tied around her mouth. Soon after, she said, she lost all her modeling and other contracts and left the country. After some time in Miami, she now lives in Colombia.

"The decision to come here wasn't easy," she said. "I feared facing Venezuela's reality, and it's much cruder. There's more hunger and more poverty. But today, there's also hope." □



In this Feb. 16, 2019 photo, guests wait for groom Juan Jose Pocatererra and his bride Maria Fernanda Vera to arrive to their destination wedding in Acarigua, Venezuela.

Associated Press

country to escape hunger, violence and hyperinflation. Basic medicine is lacking. Many who remain cannot afford bare necessities on salaries that average \$6 a month.

In an acknowledgment of that reality, as the events began on a Friday, about 50 guests joined in to help stencil white diamond-shaped patterns on the bleak blue walls of the children's hospital in the nearby city of Acarigua.

The activity, organized with the help of the Venezuelan NGO Tracing Public Spaces, "is a way to contribute amid so much suffering," Pocatererra said, as his bride, who regularly contributes powdered milk and other supplies to the hospital, nodded.

As night fell, though, any reminders of the humanitarian crisis gripping the nation disappeared.

The guests gathered under a full moon at a hacienda on the property. Some donned helmets and saddled horses for a game that involved herding water buffalo into a pen as the rest of the guests watched safely

rizos as a band played "joropo," fast-paced folk music performed with a harp, maracas and a four-string guitar. Decked out in a cowboy hat, 72-year-old crooner Joel Hernandez serenaded the bride and groom to the strains of "llanera," the region's traditional country music.

Many guests wore T-shirts designed by the bride's fashion label that read "La Tierrita," — the Little Land — a reference to her heritage on the vast savanna that spans much of central Venezuela from the Orinoco River to the Andes. It's a region of exotic birds, caiman and capybara, as well as the birthplace of the late President Hugo Chavez, who often used to claim he was born there in a mud hut.

To be sure, though, any talk of Chavez, or his hand-picked successor, President Nicolas Maduro, was not welcome with this crowd, which included landowners whose property had been expropriated by the socialist government, as well as opposition politicians, and a student leader

friends did not make it because they, like many well-healed Venezuelans, were now living abroad in places like Miami, Madrid and other cities with large Venezuelan expatriate communities in Europe and South America.

Talk turned to Juan Guaido, the 35-year-old opposition leader who had declared himself interim president in January in a move quickly recognized by the United States and some 50 other countries, and who, for this group like many Venezuelans, offered the first hope for regime change in decades. Sitting at long wooden tables, some half-jokingly wondered not if — but when — U.S. Marines would arrive.

The next morning, the guests awoke in rustic log cabins to the chirping of birds — and a slight hangover. After a breakfast of traditional stuffed corn-patty arepas, the day's events included wall-climbing, horseback riding, swimming and bocce ball. In the grassy fields, workers slaughtered a cow and a pig to grill on a stake, and

LOCAL



Sense Paradise, Taste Life



PALM BEACH — To most of us THE dream vacation experience is the feet-in-the-sand & drink in the hand set-up against a backdrop of blue ocean and sun set. Restaurant Pure Ocean at the Divi Aruba Phoenix Resort creates this magic. Friday, April 5th, is the day to touch the stars as the restaurant with the open air beach setting offers their spectacular event called The Sense, Taste Life. A happening where you are offered unlimited bites, Macallan whiskey 12 years, Jefferson's bourbon, Diplomatico rum, Hodgson Wines and cigars for the very special price of \$ 30 per person. Whether you are a local or visitor, this is your chance to mingle and unwind.

Chantal Beke, F&B Manager of the Divi Aruba Phoenix Beach Resort: "From 6 to 10 PM we are right on the beach waiting on you. A nice, relaxed, casual set-up is just perfect for locals coming to relax after work as well as for visitors of the island looking into that special experience. All together we watch our amazing sun set." The focus will be on cigars and different liquors they serve that night in an event organized together with different vendors. Two types of cigars are your pick: Don Lucas or Padron, giving you a 20-30 minutes delicious smoke. You choose the one for you. The selection of beverages offered are four red wines of Hodg-



son: Malbec, Red Blend and Merlot which are also in the wine menu of Pure Ocean. Vendor Divino serves the Macallan 12 years old whiskey, Pepia Est offers Jefferson's bourbon and La Cava presents the Diplomatico rum. The choice is yours to make! The vendors will have their stands to provide the guests with information. This top selection is what you get for the first round, after that you can continue on your own. Chantal: "We have a cashier here to assist you with tickets to purchase more beverages or cigars. There is of course a wider selection of beverages and cigars available outside of the \$ 30 package."

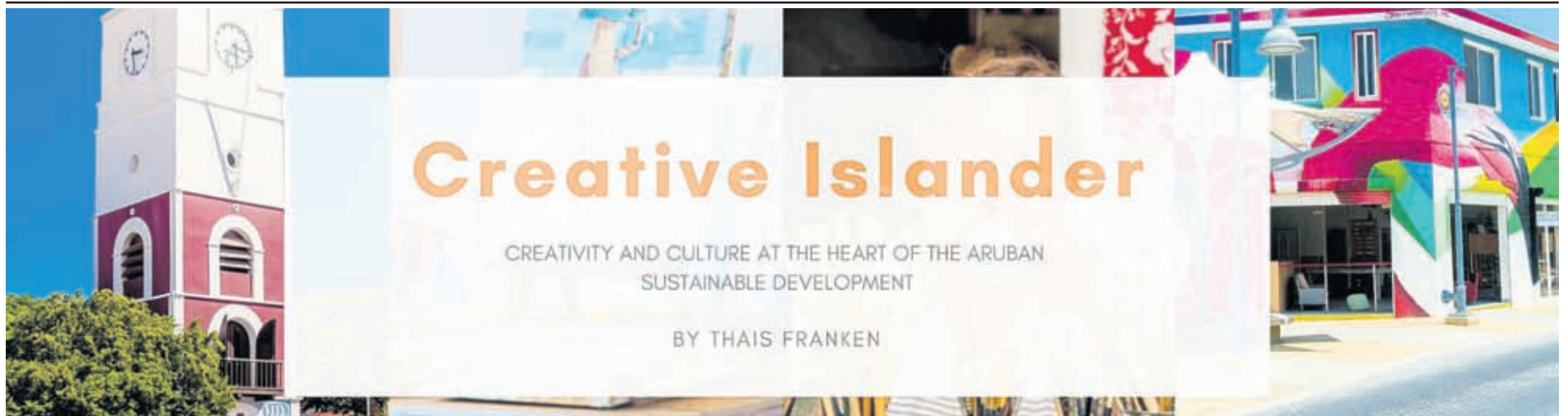
Come as You

Live music will add to the pleasure with the band Smiley performing Latin music that fits in perfect with the Caribbean flow. On top of that the chef will surprise the guests with his hors d'oeuvres, leaving you with nothing more than indulge into this tickling of the senses. Dress code for this event is Business Casual as a hint towards the locals coming from work and looking into a place to distress from the working week. "You can come as it is, but don not feel overdressed when in your work outfit. Kick off the shoes or leave them on as we have a part covered with wood for the high heel ladies. Gentlemen: roll up your sleeves and lay back. This is fun!"

Reservations are not required, but seats are limited so be on time! This is a nice, intimate happening for adults only. Don't miss it, you will not regret. □

**Pure Ocean Restaurant**

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Mario Gonsalves: Impacting Lives Through Film

“Take the challenge and be part of something great”

Maastricht – Following the Creative Islander’s Artist Edition Series, today we are highlighting yet another dynamic industry within the Cultural & Creative Industries (CCIs), namely the Film & Production Industry. The film industry is a comprehensive industry that is devoted to creativity. The film industry comprises the technological and commercial institutions of filmmaking. All the way from The Netherlands, meet Mario Gonsalves, an upcoming film producer who has taken Aruba’s name many places around the world through his love for film making and video production. On his road to his graduation, Mario is embarking a new project called Patroon as his final assignment and is seeking financial aid in assisting him fund the costs. Read up all about Mario and how you can contribute and be part of history.

Mario Gonsalves is 26 years old and currently a senior student at the Hogeschool voor de Kunsten Utrecht (HKU) in The Netherlands. As a young man growing up in Aruba, Mario always wanted to become a pilot, but could not afford that at that time, so he fell back on one of his hobbies, which was painting. He started exploring more into graphic design and he learned more on animation and then 8 years ago he made his debut in film making. In 2011 Mario started his own YouTube show and gained attention from various art institutions in Aruba. These art institutions gave Mario a funding to further expand his knowledge on filmmaking as the island of Aruba didn’t have any educational programs focusing on film at the time. With this, Mario received scholarships to go to the United States of America to study cinematography in Maine, and ‘introduction to filmmaking’ and ‘music video production & business’ in Los Angeles. After that experience Mario changed direction and headed to Europe, where he is now studying at HKU, in one of the biggest student cities of The Netherlands, Utrecht.

During his journey, here in The Netherlands, Mario received a lot of ground breaking opportunities with many artists and record labels. Next to attending classes at HKU, he also travels. Mario has not only made a name for himself, but has represented Aruba in many places around the world, and has even brought many artists to the island. Two years ago, Mario was the tour manager of DJ Chuckie and traveled entire Europe. Mario also directed a music video for the international artist Rehab featuring Sofia Carson called Rumors together with Disney Records, reaching over 16 million views on YouTube. He has worked in Paris with famous models, and other projects like; the Vampire Diaries, Pretty Little Liars and so much more. Last year Mario and a friend (also Aruban) started a new business called Recent. Recent is a film and production company and offer services to brands and artists on the international film industry market.

According to Mario, film is the art form where he feels comfortable. He enjoys the fact that it is a powerful art tool. A photo can say and mean many things, but a film you can say in literal terms what you want to say. This level of freedom, Mario can use this mechanism to transfer information to the public in a very artistic and creative, yet sensible manner. He can touch on certain topics of debate, that could help educate people, instead of just entertaining. Through film, Mario can work with international collaborators and have impact on many people from different backgrounds. Ultimately, Mario feels like



in this digital era, he can influence and communicate with people through his art, which is truly a beautiful and humbling talent.

Growing up in Aruba Mario never imagined what challenges he would encounter as he takes his journey abroad. One this he mentioned is the language barrier he experienced once he left the island. “We are known to speak four languages, but in reality, we can’t dominate one perfectly”. When he came to The Netherlands, he only spoke English, and took a lot of him to study the Dutch art culture. Now, he can use his voice to influence the art scene in The Netherlands. It took Mario 2 years to get into HKU, so that provided a lot of character building through self-discipline and patience. Mario is thankful for his upbringing, and recognizing how having respect for other has brought him far in life. Besides that, coming from the Caribbean, Mario has an advantage of providing new flavors and new art perspectives to his surroundings. His inspiration comes from everything he has gone through in life, which he now creates artistic content with.

I asked Mario on his opinion on art development on Aruba, and how he thinks Aruba could thrive in a CCI. Mario expressed that he personally feels that Aruba is centuries behind in art. Even though art is continuously exposed to the pub-

lic, people don’t seem to value it as much as it could be. But, this is all because of education, or lack thereof. We should start appreciating local artists so international artists could also fuse within. Mario admits that when he was a child he was not inclined to art, and could recognize that side within his own experience. He admits that maybe this could be the reason why so little students chose art as their career and is thankful that he received the support he needed from family and friends. The perception that art does not produce economic value, is totally wrong and people should be open to this endeavor.

Now, as a senior at HKU, Mario has to make a movie as a final graduation assignment. To realize this project, he has to invest in this as well. This movie serves as a personal representation of who Mario is and where he comes from. The film is about a boy that grows up with his father in the slums of Amsterdam, specifically in the city of Bijlmer. This neighborhood is known for having many immigrants living there and Mario has the intention of portraying how a young man without a father grows up amongst these types of challenges. Generally, people that grow up in these neighborhoods endure many social problems and receive a lot of prejudice from society.

Continued on Page 15

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“Take the challenge and be part of something great”

Continued from Page 14

What Mario wants to showcase is the inner layers of what it means to grow up in this type of environment.

To be able to complete this project Mario would have to raise 14,500 euros and has chosen to do this through crowdfunding, meaning everyone can contribute to this remarkable project, even you! Many people have already expressed their support and feel they can relate to the plot of the story. Mario is very pleased with this, because that was his initial intention. To create awareness and to educate society about diversity, inclusion, respect and namely what it means

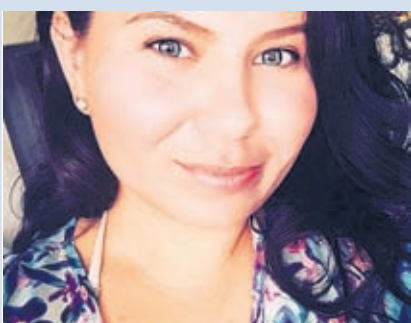
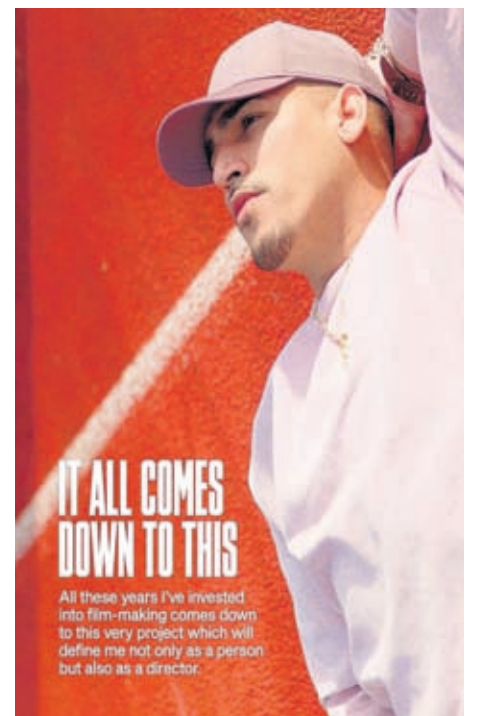
to grow up in a troubled community, where you are expected to fail, instead of rising above and succeeding. Up to this point in the interview, Mario has raised around 5,650 euros and needs help from the entire Aruban community, art lovers and film enthusiasts.

Mario hopes to inspire other young artists on Aruba to believe in their talent and to believe in their future. If you are an artist and want to pursue a career in one of the many industries in the CCI, go for it. Mario was adamant on one fact, which is to do it for the right reason. This film project is also a debut for Mario, because once he graduates, the dream is to expand his production company and collaborate

with many more artists around the world. His outlook for the future consists of making more films, and impacting more people along the way, while doing what he loves and what he feels is what he was meant to do with his life.

Creative Islander wishes Mario all the best in his graduation project and film career. What a great inspiration to all of us, on what it means to not only follow your dreams, but to decide to use your gift to impact lives of people.

Creative Islander encourages everyone to donate to this amazing project. To do so, please visit: bit.ly/patroonfilm to donate! Don't just donate, but be part of something great. □



Biography – Currently, Thaïs Franken is a 23-year-old Aruban student at the University of Maastricht (UM). She is studying a Master of Science in Public Policy and Human Development in collaboration with the United Nations University (UNU). Back home, on the beautiful island of Aruba she completed her Bachelor of Arts in Organization, Governance & Management (OGM) at the University of Aruba (UA). She successfully graduated and defended her thesis titled “Placing Culture and Creativity at the Heart of the Aruban Sustainable Development” on July 6th 2018. Thaïs is very passionate about topics such as sustainability, innovation, culture and creativity. Next to her academic interests, she enjoys reading, writing, dancing and cooking.

SDG & Speaking Workshop by JCI Yala



JCI Young Active Leaders of Aruba (JCI YALA) is part of Junior Chamber International (JCI), a worldwide community of young active citizens ages 18-40 who share the belief that in order to create positive change, we must take collective action to improve ourselves and the world around us. Engaging in activities ranging from community development to international projects, members demonstrate their social responsibility and improve themselves through participation, leadership and action.

This event will take place on Saturday April 6th at ATHA office, Caya Appeldam 2, in Dakota from 3PM-6PM.

For more information send an email to JCIYALA@gmail.com or call at 569-8177/593-5798 or find them on facebook: JCI YALA - Young Active Leaders of Aruba. □

ORANJESTAD — The Junior Chamber International Young Active Leaders of Aruba will be hosting a workshop about the Sustainable Development Goals. This way they want to show you how they as Young Active Leaders of Aruba promote the SDG's. This will take place on Saturday April 6th, 2019.

The lecture will be given by Mr. Guido Rojer Jr. from Curacao. Rojer is a SDG Ambassador, a PHD candidate at UNED Madrid and a lecturer at the University of Curacao School of Business. Rojer will teach you how thru the power of speech you will be able to advocate for the SDG's.

Aruba to Me

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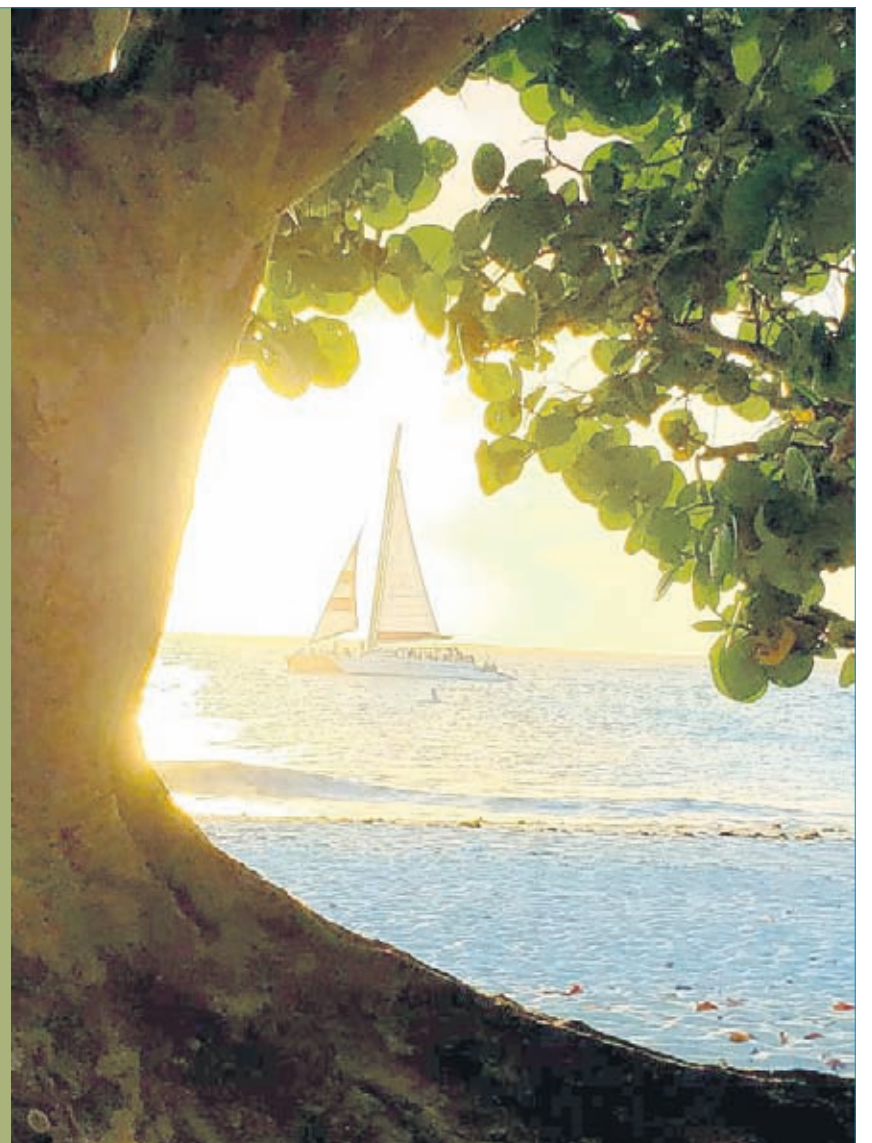
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1 great picture from

**Jan and Dan Maloof,
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**Aruba to us is...
...A Peaceful
Sunset view from
Manchebo Beach!**

The lovely couple have been coming to this beautiful island for 32 years. They consider Aruba their second home.



SPORTS



Money, opportunity part of one-and-done's winding past

By EDDIE PELLIS and LARRY FENN

Associated Press

Spencer Haywood set the stage, Michael Jordan made it bigger and Kevin Durant super-sized it when he helped usher in the one-and-done era. Decades after those players made their groundbreaking departures from college, March Madness and the NBA's mega-millions have taken all the novelty out of leaving early for the pros.

In the present era of one-and-done — a system that begat college programs that cater to kids in search of a one-year stopover instead of a diploma — the decision about whether to take off early for the NBA isn't so much one of 'if' but 'when' for hundreds of players every year.

An Associated Press analysis of NCAA Tournament rosters over the last three decades shows the ever-expanding impact that early entry, and especially the one-and-done player, has had on both the college game and the NBA draft.

In 2005, the year before the one-and-done rule went into effect, there were nine high schoolers and one freshman drafted. Last season, there were no high schoolers, and 13 of the first 18 picks were one-and-done.

In the first year the AP studied, 1989, there were 13 early entries, five of whom played in the NCAA Tournament.

Continued on Page 23

ROARING 20'S

Westbrook records triple-double, leads Thunder past Lakers

Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) shoots as Los Angeles Lakers center Moritz Wagner, left, defends in the second half of an NBA basketball game, Tuesday, April 2, 2019, in Oklahoma City.

Associated Press
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In this May 12, 2012, file photo, Australia's Stephanie Gilmore competes in the Association of Surfing Professionals, ASP, Billabong Rio Pro women's surfing competition at Barra da Tijuca beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

Associated Press

Surf is up: Season opens for Olympics qualifying, equal pay

GOLD COAST, Australia (AP) — Qualifying for the inaugural Olympic surfing competition began Wednesday with a World Surf League event which also featured equal prize money for male and female board riders.

Poor surf conditions at the regular Snapper Rocks venue on the Gold Coast meant officials moved the first day of competition around the point to nearby Duranbah.

Seven-time world champion Stephanie Gilmore leads the women's field while defending Gold Coast champion and fellow Australian Julian Wilson features in a strong men's field that included American great and 11-time world champion Kelly Slater and reigning series champion Gabriel Medina.

For surfers like Gilmore, who can earn a spot at the Tokyo Olympics by finishing in the top eight at the end of the WSL season, 2019 presents some unique opportunities for pay parity and Olympic inclusion.

"I've never been driven by money to win, but I've come to understand the sport has a real power to speak to people on a whole other level," Gilmore said ahead of the season-opening event at her local break. "To set standards and send messages in society that not many other industries have ... it just

seemed like such a milestone year and it made me fall back in love with being the world champion and reminding me why I do this."

Becoming an Olympian would be an added bonus. "I always loved the idea of going to the Olympics (but) never thought I'd get the chance," she said.

In men's first-round heats Wednesday, Wilson and Slater finished last in their respective three-man heats, forcing both into elimination heats in the second round. Medina advanced directly to the third round with a win in his opening heat, and producing the highest-scoring wave of the day. Under the new men's format, first- and second-place finishers in the opening heats go directly to the third round. Third place goes into a second round, where the last surfer in each heat is eliminated. From the third-round onward, it's single elimination head-to-head competition.

Slater, coming off an injury-shortened 2018 because of a broken right foot, said he doesn't feel a 12th world title is out of the question for him.

"I was really burned out when I got injured last year, so it was sort of a good time to recharge," Slater said. "I know where the level's at ... I don't think that it's unattainable." □



In this Sunday, March 24, 2019, file photo, Calgary Inferno's Brigette Lacquette, left, battles for the puck with Les Canadiennes de Montreal's Lauriane Rougeau during the second-period action of the Clarkson Cup hockey game in Toronto, Ontario.

Associated Press

U.S.-based NWHL OKs plan to expand to Canada after CWHL folds

By **JOHN WAWROW**
AP Hockey Writer

The National Women's Hockey League is moving swiftly to expand to Toronto and Montreal following the demise of its Canadian-based rival.

NWHL Commissioner Dani Rylan told The Associated Press on Tuesday the league's board had approved an investment plan to establish teams in Canada's two largest cities for the start of next season. Rylan also said her league has received a commitment from the NHL that will make it one of the NWHL's biggest financial sponsors. The decision by the U.S.-based NWHL to cross the border and expand from five teams to seven comes just two days after the Canadian Women's Hockey League abruptly announced it will cease operations by May 1 due to financial issues. The CWHL had four teams in Canada, one in suburban Boston and a sixth in China, and its decision after 12 seasons was seen as a major blow to the sport.

"The news definitely came as a shock to us on Sunday morning, but it was obvious that we needed to do what we could to provide for those players to have a place to play this fall,"

Rylan said by phone. "The focus of ours was to figure out a solution for Canada first, and we're fortunate we were able to do that pretty quickly here."

Rylan said the expansion decision and NHL's increased backing weren't exactly connected. She instead views the NHL's increased financial support as "an endorsement of our business and the brands that we're growing."

Rylan did not reveal how much additional money the NWHL will receive above the NHL's \$50,000 previous annual commitment. The NHL also contributed \$50,000 to support the CWHL.

NHL deputy commissioner Bill Daly confirmed the league has increased its financial support. Daly, however, cautioned the additional support doesn't change the NHL's position in fully backing a women's pro sports league.

Daly referred to what he wrote on Sunday in response to the CWHL's collapse. "We recognize the importance of women having options to play the game at the professional level. If those options were to become unavailable in the future, we would certainly consider doing what's necessary to fill that

void," Daly wrote. "But that's not the case currently." The CWHL operated liked Major League Soccer by owning each of its teams, except for the one based in Shenzhen, China. Starting in 2017-18, it began paying player salaries ranging from \$2,000 to \$10,000 out of a total budget of \$3.7 million. The NWHL has relied on private investors and was the first to pay players a salary.

The shifting fortunes for pro women's hockey in its hotbed of North America has come with most of the world's top players in Finland for the world championships, which open on Thursday. Many players tweeted their disappointment on Sunday and Canada's national team issued a statement Tuesday. "We are disappointed and shocked to learn of the CWHL's plan to shut down league operations," the team said. "There are many unanswered questions about the future, but we will continue to create dialogue with our teammates, fellow players and leagues. Our priority as players is to move forward and advance the game at all levels, and to ensure female hockey players have a viable league for the future." □

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Westbrook joins Wilt in NBA history, Thunder beat Lakers

By The Associated Press
OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Russell Westbrook became just the second player in NBA history to have 20 points, 20 rebounds and 20 assists in a game as the Oklahoma City Thunder defeated the Los Angeles Lakers 119-103 Tuesday night.

Westbrook clinched the mark with a rebound in the final minute, drawing a large ovation from the home crowd. He finished with 20 points, 20 rebound and 21 assists.

Wilt Chamberlain is the only other player to accomplish the feat. He had 22 points, 25 rebounds and 21 assists in a game in 1968.

Westbrook had at least 15 points, 15 rebounds and 15 assists for the eighth time in his career, tying Chamberlain for second-most all-time. Oscar Robertson had 14 such games in his

career.

Westbrook finished 8 of 23 from the field as Oklahoma City won for the third time in its last 10 games.

Kentavious Caldwell-Pope led the Lakers with 23 points.

WARRIORS 116, NUGGETS 99

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Kevin Durant emphatically showed who is still No. 1 in the West, delivering a pair of jarring dunks late in the first half and finishing with 21 points and six assists before being ejected to lead the Golden State past Denver in a matchup of the top teams in the conference.

DeMarcus Cousins had a season-best 28 points, on 12-for-17 shooting, 13 rebounds, five assists and two blocks for the Warriors (53-24), who have a two-game lead and the tie-breaker on Denver (51-26) with five games to go in the

chase for the Western Conference's top seed and home-court advantage throughout the playoffs. Stephen Curry added 17 points, five rebounds and five assists.

Jamal Murray scored 17 points, and Paul Millsap had 11 points shooting 4 of 11 for Denver, which lost for the third time in four games and played the first night of a tough back-to-back with San Antonio visiting the Mile High City on Wednesday.

SPURS 117, HAWKS 111

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — DeMar DeRozan scored 29 points and San Antonio beat Atlanta for the 21st straight time at home.

San Antonio point guard Derrick White added 23 points after scoring 12 total points in his previous two games.

The Spurs remain seventh in the Western Conference at 45-33. □



Oklahoma City Thunder guard Russell Westbrook (0) dunks in the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Los Angeles Lakers Tuesday, April 2, 2019, in Oklahoma City.

Associated Press

Fiers, 3 A's relievers shut down Red Sox for 1-0 win



Boston Red Sox' Xander Bogaerts, left, is tagged out at home by Oakland Athletics catcher Nick Hundley during the second inning of a baseball game in Oakland, Calif., Monday, April 1, 2019.

By The Associated Press
OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Mike Fiers gave Oakland another stellar start, center fielder Ramon Laureano threw out a baserunner for a second straight game and the Athletics made Matt Chapman's homer stand in a win over Chris Sale and Boston. Fiers (2-1) pitched six innings of five-hit ball. Oakland starters have allowed just one run over 36 innings in the last six games since the team returned from an 0-2 trip to Tokyo. The A's have won four straight and five of six. The World Series champion Red Sox dropped their fourth straight and fell to 1-5. Laureano threw out Xander Bogaerts at third trying to stretch a double off the wall with one out in the ninth off closer Blake Treinen. Bogaerts had fouled a pitch off his ankle earlier in the at-bat. Chapman's third homer and second in two days came on a 3-2 pitch from Sale (0-2), an 89 mph fastball he left up in the zone.
MARINERS 2, ANGELS 1
SEATTLE (AP) — Marco Gonzales pitched into the ninth inning after Dan Vo-

gelbach hit a tiebreaking homer in the eighth, lifting Seattle over Los Angeles to move to 7-1 for the first time in franchise history. Gonzales (3-0) was hoping to pitch the first complete game in baseball this season, but a one-out walk to Mike Trout and a single to center by Andrelton Simmons ended his night. Anthony Swarzak, who came off the injured list Tuesday, earned the save in his first appearance of the season by striking out Albert Pujols and getting Jonathan Lucroy to ground out to second. Luis Garcia (0-1) allowed Vogelbach's homer.
TIGERS 3, YANKEES 1
NEW YORK (AP) — Dustin Peterson laced a tiebreaking double off Aroldis Chapman in the ninth inning for his first major league hit, and Detroit beat New York. Joe Jiménez (1-0) worked a hitless eighth and ended the inning with an unassisted double play after snagging Gleyber Torres' line drive and jogging to first base himself. Shane Greene tossed a 1-2-3 ninth for his third save. Chapman (0-1) walked pinch-hitter Niko Goodrum

with one out in the ninth and he scored easily from first when Peterson doubled over the head of left fielder Mike Tauchman.
ORIOLES 2, BLUE JAYS 1
TORONTO (AP) — Andrew Cashner pitched six shutout innings, and Baltimore extended its a road winning streak to four for the first time since 2016 before another small crowd at Rogers Centre. Jonathan Villar had two hits and scored once for the Orioles, who improved to 4-1. Coming off a 115-loss season, the Orioles opened by winning two of three at the New York Yankees. They strung together four road wins for the first time since July 5-16, 2016, at the Los Angeles Dodgers and Tampa Bay. Boosted by a \$1 hot dog promotion, the game drew 12,110, up from 10,460 in Monday's series opener, Toronto's smallest crowd since 2010. Baltimore had lost 10 straight at Toronto coming into the series. Cashner (1-1) allowed four hits, all singles, struck out three and walked three. He stranded the bases loaded in his final inning when Rowdy Tellez flied out on his first

pitch. Miguel Castro got his first save despite allowing Tellez's second homer this season. Marcus Stroman (0-1) allowed two runs and nine hits in 5 2/3 innings.
RAYS 4, ROCKIES 0
ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Blake Snell matched a career high with 13 strikeouts, pitching seven innings of two-hit ball to lift Tampa Bay over Colorado for its fifth straight win. The AL Cy Young Award winner struck out six straight during one stretch, helping Tampa Bay improve to a franchise-best 5-1. Snell (1-1) rebounded splendidly after allowing five runs in an opening day loss to Houston. Trevor Story had singles in the fifth and seventh innings for Colorado's only hits. The Rockies have lost four straight and scored only one run in their last 30 innings. They never got a runner as far as second base against Snell and reliever Wilmer Font, who closed with two hitless innings. Tampa Bay scored three runs in the first inning against Kyle Freeland (1-1), an effort aided by catcher Chris Iannetta's error.

RANGERS 6, ASTROS 4
ARLINGTON, Texas (AP) — Joey Gallo grounded a hard single to right field between two diving infielders to drive in two runs and put Texas ahead to stay. The Rangers (3-2) are over .500 for the second time this season in manager Chris Woodward's managerial debut. They never had a winning record at any point last year. Rougned Odor started the seventh inning in a 4-4 game with a bunt single that was beyond the reach of lefty Framber Valdez (0-1) coming off the mound. Elvis Andrus had a double before Gallo pulled a hard one-out grounder that split between second baseman Jose Altuve and first baseman Yuli Gurriel. Shawn Kelly (2-0) threw 1 1/3 innings in his third appearance for the Rangers. Jose Leclerc worked a perfect ninth for his second save. Asdrubal Cabrera homered for the third time.
TWINS 5, ROYALS 4, 10 INNING
KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Nelson Cruz got a second chance and delivered a go-ahead single with two outs in the 10th inning, giving Minnesota a victory before Kansas City's smallest announced home crowd in eight years. Cruz appeared to ground out against reliever Brad Boxberger (0-1) with runners on first and second when third base umpire James Hoyer signaled his chopper fair. But plate umpire Mark Ripperger came in and signaled it was foul, and after the two umps visited it was Ripperger's call that stood. Cruz followed a couple pitches later with his third RBI of the game. Trevor Hildenberger (1-0) got the final out of the ninth inning for Minnesota, and Blake Parker worked around a two-out walk in the 10th to earn his first save. Kansas City announced attendance as 10,024, the lowest at Kauffman Stadium since 9,279 against Cleveland on April 21, 2011. □

Associated Press

Harper homers in DC return, Phils beat Nats 8-2

By The Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Bryce Harper crushed a long home run for his third hit while performing to jeers in his return to Washington, and the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Nationals 8-2 Tuesday night for the franchise's best start in over a century.

Maikel Franco also homered for the Phillies, baseball's only undefeated team at 4-0. They had only done that in 1915 and 1897. Harper left Washington after playing 927 games over seven years, participating in six All-Star Games and winning the 2015 NL MVP Award. He listened to what the Nationals had to offer, then signed a \$330 million, 13-year contract with the rival Phillies in February.

Harper hasn't wasted any time providing returns for the investment. He has three homers and five RBIs in four games, along with a .429 batting average. He drove in three Tuesday.

Booed during every at-bat, Harper thumped a "take that," 458-foot shot in the eighth inning off Jeremy Hellickson. As the ball soared toward the second deck in right field, Harper flipped his bat and circled the bases with delight before celebrating with his new teammates in the visiting dugout.

Zach Eflin (1-0) struck out nine and allowed three hits over five scoreless innings. He outdid Max Scherzer (0-2), who allowed one earned run in five innings and struck out nine.

Nationals shortstop Trea Turner was hit by a pitch and broke his right index finger while trying to bunt. He's out indefinitely.

DIAMONDBACKS 8, PADRES 5

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Zack Greinke hit a career-best two homers and struck out 10 in six innings to rebound from a rocky opening day, and Arizona beat San Diego in a wild game that included an unusual batter's interference call on Manny Machado.

Greinke (1-1) allowed two homers to Hunter Renfroe



Philadelphia Phillies' Bryce Harper hits a two-run homer during the eighth inning of a baseball game against the Washington Nationals at Nationals Park, Tuesday, April 2, 2019, in Washington. The Phillies won 8-2.

Associated Press

but was otherwise stellar. He was backed by homers from John Ryan Murphy, Ketel Marte and Christian Walker. Wil Myers also went deep for San Diego.

Machado was called out in the sixth inning after dropping his bat near Murphy while the Diamondbacks catcher tried to catch a popup, a disputed decision that led to Padres manager Andy Green's ejection.

Eric Lauer (1-1) allowed the first of Greinke's homers. Greg Holland pitched the ninth for his second save.

DODGERS 6, GIANTS 5

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Cody Bellinger hit a grand slam off Madison Bumgarner (0-2) in the third inning, the sixth consecutive game Los Angeles has homered in to start the season.

The Dodgers have slugged 17 homers so far, tied with the Seattle Mariners for most in the majors. They matched the franchise

record for homers in six straight games to start a season, set by the 1954 Brooklyn Dodgers.

Hyun-Jin Ryu (2-0) allowed two runs and six hits in seven innings. He struck out five and walked none. He was the fifth left-hander in six games that the Giants have faced.

The Dodgers survived a messy ninth by closer Kenley Jansen, who eked out his second save.

BREWERS 4, REDS 3

CINCINNATI (AP) — Orlando Arcia ended his season-opening slump with a three-run homer and Milwaukee extended its domination of Cincinnati.

Milwaukee has won the first two games of the series and 15 of 21 against Cincinnati over the last two seasons. The defending NL Central champions are off to a 5-1 start, one game better than a year ago when they tied the club re-

cord with 96 wins.

Arcia was 0 for 16 when he connected off Michael Lorenzen, who was brought in to face the shortstop with two outs in the sixth inning after left-hander Zach Duke (1-1) gave up a walk and a single. Arcia's opposite-field homer barely cleared the wall in right field and snapped a 1-1 tie.

Jhoulys Chacin (2-0) gave up three hits and a pair of runs in 5 1/3 innings, including Eugenio Suarez's RBI double. Suarez added a solo homer off Junior Guerra in the eighth. Josh Hader got his fourth save.

METS 6, MARLINS 5

MIAMI (AP) — Amed Rosario hit a two-run double in New York's five-run first inning against Jose Urena (0-2) and started a game-ending double play.

Wilson Ramos and Dominic Smith each had two hits and an RBI for the Mets, who improved to 4-1 for the

second straight year. Jason Vargas (1-0) allowed two runs in five innings in his season debut. The Marlins went 1 for 10 with runners in scoring position against him.

The Marlins had 16 hits but left 14 runners on base. Jorge Alfaro went 0 for 4 and stranded seven, including the potential tying run at third when he struck out against Justin Wilson to end the eighth inning. Wilson hit a batter and allowed a single in the ninth but earned his first save since 2017 when Rosario caught Miguel Rojas' line drive and doubled off Lewis Brinson at second base. □

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Nelly Korda ready to take major step at ANA Inspiration

By JOHN NICHOLSON

AP Sports Writer

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif.

(AP) — Nelly Korda is ready to take a major step at the ANA Inspiration. She's also trying not to get too far ahead of herself, barely letting herself think about the traditional victory leap into Poppy's Pond.

"I'm not going to think about it too much," Korda said Wednesday.

Instead, she was thinking about the opening round Thursday.

"The first round is tomorrow, so just focus on that one," said Korda, at 20 making her fifth start at Mission Hills in the major championship. That task-at-hand philosophy has worked well in the last six months.

Building on a strong finish last year when she won in Taiwan and was second in the season-ending event in Florida, the American has opened the season with five straight top-10 finishes, winning the Women's Australian Open in February. She's coming off a second-place tie — with older sister Jessica among others — two weeks ago in the Founders Cup in Phoenix.

"Just staying calm and consistent," Korda said. "I've said it quite a bit this year, but really my goal is just to stay consistent, not to overreact when I hit bad



Nelly Korda hits her tee shot on the 11th hole during the pro-am round of the LPGA Tour ANA Inspiration golf tournament at Mission Hills Country Club Wednesday, April 3, 2019, in Rancho Mirage, Calif.

shots. That was a goal of mine this year, to take it shot by shot and really to stay calm." She's No. 8 in the world ranking, three spots ahead of her sister.

"We don't talk about how we push each other, but obviously we want to beat each other as well at the end of the day and that pushes us," Korda said. "It's very healthy. When I'm struggling she's right there and vice versa."

The victory in Adelaide added to her family's sports pedigree Down Under. Her

father, Petr Korda, won his lone Grand Slam tennis title in the 1998 Australian Open. Jessica won the Women's Australian Open seven years ago for the first of her five LPGA Tour titles, and tennis player brother Sebastian took the Australian Open boys' singles title last year.

"I've always seen something, a shade more serious in Nelly than I have in Jessica," said Hall of Famer Judy Rankin, Golf Channel/NBC's lead LPGA Tour analyst. "Jessica might be

loving life a fraction more, where Nelly is just a little bit more directed, a little bit more on a path."

Korda skipped the Carlsbad event last week to prepare for the major, practicing at The Vintage Club in nearby Indian Wells.

"Just kind of practicing my putting, my swing, just to stay consistent throughout the week," she said. "Just so grateful at the end of the day to just be practicing out there and to enjoy the views, saying to yourself, 'Oh, my God, this is

actually my job.' Korda will play alongside 2013 winner Inbee Park the first two days. They will open Thursday afternoon on No. 10.

"The rough is really thick around the greens and around the fairways," Korda said. "It seems like it's pretty firm. Playing really pure. They made a couple of the holes longer, so I think it's going to be playing tougher this year on a couple of the longer holes." Park lost a playoff to Pernilla Lindberg last year in a Monday finish, falling on the eighth extra hole. The seven-time major champion likes the tougher and longer setup.

"The rough is thicker than what we play probably four, five years," Park said. "I think the rough will be definitely the challenge of the week. ... Four holes have tee boxes that we never played before. The course is going to be longer and the rough is going to be up. I think it'll be quite a tough test. I think it's a good major setup."

Park missed a chance for her 20th LPGA Tour victory and first in just over a year Sunday in Carlsbad. After taking a one-stroke lead into the final round, she closed with a 1-under 71 to tie for second — three strokes behind Nasa Hataoka. □

Associated Press



Brazilian soccer legend Pele, left, and French soccer player Kylian Mbappe pose during a photocall in Paris, Tuesday, April 2, 2019.

Associated Press

By SAM PETREQUIN and MAURICIO SAVARESE

AP Sports Writers

PARIS (AP) — Soccer great Pele was hospitalized in Paris on Wednesday be-

cause of a urinary infection following a meeting with Kylian Mbappe in the French capital, his spokesman said.

Pepito Fornos told The Asso-

Soccer great Pele hospitalized with urinary infection

ciated Press the three-time World Cup champion will be in hospital for up to two days.

"He was a little shaky and they detected a urinary infection," Fornos said.

He added that Pele had a fever and is being treated with antibiotics, but "it is all under control."

"Doctors want him to stay in hospital one or two days so he can leave fully recovered," Fornos added. He did not specify which hospital Pele was being treated in.

Earlier, Brazilian TV network

Globo said Pele had a cold and was medicated at his hotel on Tuesday. He woke up still feeling ill and was taken to a hospital on Wednesday.

The 78-year-old Pele and Mbappe, the French forward who has drawn comparisons with the Brazilian great after helping France win the World Cup last summer as a teenager, met as part of their ambassador roles for a Swiss watchmaker.

Pele has frequently been admitted to hospitals in the last few years for kidney

and prostate procedures. In November 2014 the Brazilian great stayed in a Sao Paulo hospital for two weeks, including some time in intensive care, because of a urinary tract infection. At the time, his Brazilian doctors said intensive care was needed because of excessive inflammation in his body caused by the infection.

Pele's meeting with Mbappe had initially been planned for last November but was postponed because of the Brazilian's poor health at the time. □

ONE-AND-DONE

Continued from Page 17

Only one player drafted by the NBA that year was a freshman, Shawn Kemp. (The future six-time NBA All Star never played college basketball after eligibility issues at Kentucky and a transfer to a junior college.) The rules could be changing again soon.

The NBA is considering doing away with the rule prohibiting players under 19 from being drafted, and the league is trying to come up with a new system. But it doesn't want to return to the days of the 1990s and early 2000s, when unprepared high schoolers were drafted early, many of them never developing into stars or even role players. Whatever the change, it figures to have a considerable impact on the college game, though nobody is sure exactly what the impact will be.

"I think kids should go right to the NBA," says Kentucky coach John Calipari, who has become the leading advocate of one-and-done, and the security it has brought to many college players and their families. "But there's probably (only) five or six or seven that are ready to do that, and even half of those will probably spend time in the (developmental) G League."

It wasn't always like this.

Haywood's decision to leave the University of Detroit in 1969 for the then-

ascending ABA was considered revolutionary at the time. A year later, when he signed with the NBA's Seattle SuperSonics, he won a Supreme Court case against the league, which had sued for violating the rule that players couldn't enter the league until they were four years removed from high school.

Haywood's victory set precedent, even if it didn't exactly open the floodgates.

Through the 1970s, a handful, sometimes up to a dozen, underclassmen entered each year into a league where a decent salary was only starting to reach into six figures. Some early entries from that era: Moses Malone, Bernard King, Reggie Theus.

Magic Johnson came out after his sophomore year, in 1979, and along with Larry Bird helped take the NBA to new heights.

By the time Jordan left North Carolina after the 1984 season — one of nine underclassmen, along with Charles Barkley and Hakeem Olajuwon, to declare that year — the NBA was introducing a salary cap, at \$3.6 million a team, and the NCAA was expanding the field in its tournament to 64 teams.

Today, the cap stands at nearly \$102 million and the number of players who came out early ballooned to 236 last year. Only 42 got drafted.

In the early 1990s, the Fab



In this Oct. 7, 1972, file photo, Spencer Haywood (24) of the Seattle SuperSonics goes around Sidney Wicks of the Portland Trail Blazers as he drives toward the basket during their NBA exhibition game at the Forum in Los Angeles, Calif.

Associated Press

Five and Michigan helped introduce baggy shorts and hip-hop into basketball. But in a wide-ranging recruiting scandal that resulted in most of their victories being wiped off the official books, Chris Webber, booster Ed Martin and the rest afforded college hoops a preview of the havoc that the growing influence of cash — with boosters, shoe companies and club coaches all playing a role in its distribution — could wreak on the sport.

With no restrictions and plenty of opportunities, high schoolers started taking the dip more regularly.

But for every Kevin Garnett — the player who triggered the teens-to-NBA onslaught in 1995 — or LeBron James, there were even more like Kwame Brown, a top pick who turned into a bust or, even worse, Taj McDavid, who thought he could go from high school to the NBA, but never got a sniff. That brought about the one-and-done rule. Established in 2006, the year before Durant entered the draft and helped push the issue to the front-and-center of the basketball conversation, the rule forced players to wait a year after high school to

enter the NBA. Most chose to use that year playing college ball, and Calipari wasn't the only coach willing to cater to them.

These days, "one-and-done" is often used as catch-all for everything wrong with college basketball.

With the FBI getting involved in sorting out the connection between money, shoes and hoops — a job many think the NCAA should be doing instead of law enforcement — the NBA is rethinking one-and-done, trying to come up with a system that will better serve the game. □

Earnhardt joins NBC Sports coverage of Indianapolis 500



With a banner of former NASCAR driver Dale Earnhardt Jr. at upper right, workers perform maintenance on the illuminated signage on the Tower E elevator, Monday, April 1, 2019, in Bristol, Tenn.

Associated Press

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — NBC Sports will use retired NASCAR star Dale Earnhardt Jr. in its inaugural broadcast of the Indianapolis 500 next month. The second-year analyst will be part of a team that features 14 commentators and host Mike Tirico and analyst Danica Patrick. Earnhardt will be a roving reporter for his first Indianapolis 500 on May 26, contributing to pre-race, in-race and post-race coverage alongside Rutledge Wood. Earnhardt Jr., who will also be featured from

Indianapolis Motor Speedway during race week, was used extensively by the network in his first year after retirement with reporting trips to last year's Winter Olympics in South Korea and the Super Bowl. NBC Sports motorsports host Krista Voda will also join Earnhardt at Indianapolis. The broadcast booth will be NBC Sports' full-time IndyCar crew of play-by-play announcer Leigh Diffey and analysts Paul Tracy and Townsend Bell. The 14 total commentators will be the most ever

for NBC Sports' coverage of IndyCar as the network plans to treat the Indy 500 as one of its showcase events. ABC had broadcast the "Greatest Spectacle in Racing" exclusively since 1965 in the second-longest-running partnership of its kind until NBC purchased the rights to air the entire 2019 IndyCar schedule.

Marty Snider, Kelli Stavast, Kevin Lee and Jon Beekhuis will be the pit reporters for the Indy 500, along with reporters Robin Miller and Dillon Welch. □

Face recognition researcher fights Amazon over biased AI

By **MATT O'BRIEN**

CAMBRIDGE, Mass. (AP) —

Facial recognition technology was already seeping into everyday life — from your photos on Facebook to police scans of mugshots — when Joy Buolamwini noticed a serious glitch: Some of the software couldn't detect dark-skinned faces like hers.

That revelation sparked the Massachusetts Institute of Technology researcher to launch a project that's having an outsize influence on the debate over how artificial intelligence should be deployed in the real world.

Her tests on software created by brand-name tech firms such as Amazon uncovered much higher error rates in classifying the gender of darker-skinned women than for lighter-skinned men.

Along the way, Buolamwini has spurred Microsoft and IBM to improve their systems and irked Amazon, which publicly attacked her research methods. On Wednesday, a group of AI scholars, including a winner of computer science's top prize, launched a spirited defense of her work and called on Amazon to stop selling its facial recognition software to police.

Her work has also caught the attention of political leaders in statehouses and Congress and led some to seek limits on the use of computer vision tools to analyze human faces.

"There needs to be a choice," said Buolamwini, a graduate student and researcher at MIT's Media Lab. "Right now, what's happening is these technologies are being deployed widely without oversight, oftentimes covertly, so that by the time we wake up, it's almost too late."

Buolamwini is hardly alone in expressing caution about the fast-moving adoption of facial recognition by police, government agencies and businesses from stores to apartment complexes. Many other researchers have shown how AI systems, which look for patterns in huge troves of

data, will mimic the institutional biases embedded in the data they are learn-

technology. "Joy's work has been part of building that awareness."

lowest error rates, declined comment. Messages left with Face Plus Plus weren't

computing division, wrote in a January blog post. Amazon declined requests for an interview.

"I didn't know their reaction would be quite so hostile," Buolamwini said recently in an interview at her MIT lab. Coming to her defense Wednesday was a coalition of researchers, including AI pioneer Yoshua Bengio, recent winner of the Turing Award, considered the tech field's version of the Nobel Prize.

They criticized Amazon's response, especially its distinction between facial recognition and analysis.

"In contrast to Dr. Wood's claims, bias found in one system is cause for concern in the other, particularly in use cases that could severely impact people's lives, such as law enforcement applications," they wrote.

Its few publicly known clients have defended Amazon's system.

Chris Adzima, senior information systems analyst for the Washington County Sheriff's Office in Oregon, said the agency uses Amazon's Rekognition to identify the most likely matches among its collection of roughly 350,000 mug shots. But because a human makes the final decision, "the bias of that computer system is not transferred over into any results or any action taken," Adzima said. But increasingly, regulators and legislators are having their doubts.

A bipartisan bill in Congress seeks limits on facial recognition. Legislatures in Washington and Massachusetts are considering laws of their own.

Buolamwini said a major message of her research is that AI systems need to be carefully reviewed and consistently monitored if they're going to be used on the public.

Not just to audit for accuracy, she said, but to ensure face recognition isn't abused to violate privacy or cause other harms.

"We can't just leave it to companies alone to do these kinds of checks," she said. □



In this Wednesday, Feb. 13, 2019, photo, Massachusetts Institute of Technology facial recognition researcher Joy Buolamwini stands for a portrait at the school, in Cambridge, Mass.

Associated Press

ing from. For instance, if AI systems are developed using images of mostly white men, the systems will work best in recognizing white men.

Those disparities can sometimes be a matter of life or death: One recent study of the computer vision systems that enable self-driving cars to "see" the road shows they have a harder time detecting pedestrians with darker skin tones.

What's struck a chord about Buolamwini's work is her method of testing the systems created by well-known companies. She applies such systems to a skin-tone scale used by dermatologists, then names and shames those that show racial and gender bias. Buolamwini, who's also founded a coalition of scholars, activists and others called the Algorithmic Justice League, has blended her scholarly investigations with activism.

"It adds to a growing body of evidence that facial recognition affects different groups differently," said Shankar Narayan, of the American Civil Liberties Union of Washington state, where the group has sought restrictions on the

Amazon, whose CEO, Jeff Bezos, she emailed directly last summer, has responded by aggressively taking aim at her research methods.

A Buolamwini-led study published just over a year ago found disparities in how facial-analysis systems built by IBM, Microsoft and the Chinese company Face Plus Plus classified people by gender. Darker-skinned women were the most misclassified group, with error rates of up to 34.7%. By contrast, the maximum error rate for lighter-skinned males was less than 1%.

The study called for "urgent attention" to address the bias.

"I responded pretty much right away," said Ruchir Puri, chief scientist of IBM Research, describing an email he received from Buolamwini last year.

Since then, he said, "it's been a very fruitful relationship" that informed IBM's unveiling this year of a new 1 million-image database for better analyzing the diversity of human faces. Previous systems have been overly reliant on what Buolamwini calls "pale male" image repositories.

Microsoft, which had the

immediately returned.

Months after her first study, when Buolamwini worked with University of Toronto researcher Inioluwa Deborah Raji on a follow-up test, all three companies showed major improvements.

But this time they also added Amazon, which has sold the system it calls Rekognition to law enforcement agencies. The results, published in late January, showed Amazon badly misidentifying darker-hued women.

"We were surprised to see that Amazon was where their competitors were a year ago," Buolamwini said.

Amazon dismissed what it called Buolamwini's "erroneous claims" and said the study confused facial analysis with facial recognition, improperly measuring the former with techniques for evaluating the latter.

"The answer to anxieties over new technology is not to run 'tests' inconsistent with how the service is designed to be used, and to amplify the test's false and misleading conclusions through the news media," Matt Wood, general manager of artificial intelligence for Amazon's cloud-

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& private roof top patio



US stocks move higher in morning trading, led by tech

By **DAMIAN J. TROISE**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — U.S. stocks moved broadly higher on Wall Street in morning trading Wednesday, led by technology companies and banks.

Chipmaker Intel rose 2.7% after naming a new chief financial officer and rival Advanced Micro Devices jumped 10%. Morgan Stanley rose 1.7%.

Solid earnings helped push Dave & Buster's higher, while weak earnings sent GameStop lower.

Consumer product and utility companies lagged the market as investors moved toward riskier holdings, signaling more confidence in economic growth.

The U.S. and China resumed negotiations Wednesday to end a trade war that has raised prices on goods for both consumers and companies. Investors hope



In this March 5, 2019, file photo specialist Matthew Grenier works on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange.

that the world's two largest economies can agree to pull back on some of those tariffs and move toward a

more stable trading partnership.

Markets have swayed for months as the contentious

talks drag on. The latest reports say that both sides have resolved most of the key issues, with some

pledges from China to end practices viewed by the U.S. as technology theft.

Investors are also keeping a close watch on Britain's messy departure from the European Union and a new round of corporate earnings results set to begin next week.

The overall forecast is for a weak round of results, with earnings by S&P 500 companies expected to contract by 4 percent, according to FactSet.

Delta will kick off the earnings results for airlines early next week, with JPMorgan and Wells Fargo leading bank earnings later in the week.

KEEPING SCORE: The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 80 points, or 0.3%, to 26,259 as of 11:30 a.m. The S&P 500 index rose 0.6% as it comes off of a four-day winning streak. The Nasdaq composite rose 1.1%. □

Associated Press

Survey: Businesses add jobs at slowest pace in 18 months

By **CHRISTOPHER RUGABER**
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Companies added the fewest jobs in 18 months in March, a private survey found, suggesting employers may have grown more cautious as signs of slower economic growth have emerged.

Payroll processor ADP said Wednesday that businesses added 129,000 jobs last month, down from the

previous month's gain of 197,000. Still, the job gains in March are enough to slightly lower the unemployment rate over time. All the job gains were in service sectors, such as education and health care, which added a combined total of 56,000. Professional and business services, which include engineering, accounting, and other higher-paid work, added 41,000.

Manufacturing and construction firms both cut jobs last month.

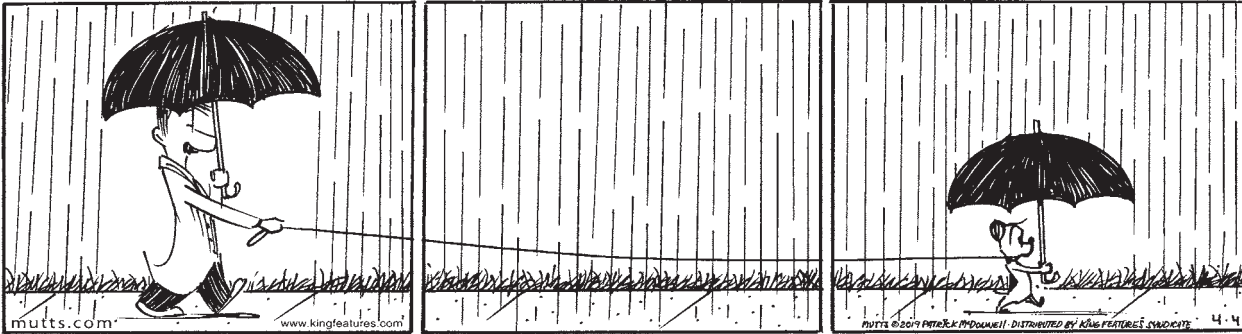
Small businesses added just 6,000 jobs, far below the hiring by large and medium-sized businesses. Smaller companies typically struggle to compete in hiring with bigger businesses when fewer workers are available. Bigger companies can often provide higher pay or greater benefits. □



In this March 7, 2019, photo visitors to the Pittsburgh veterans job fair meet with recruiters at Heinz Field in Pittsburgh.

Associated Press

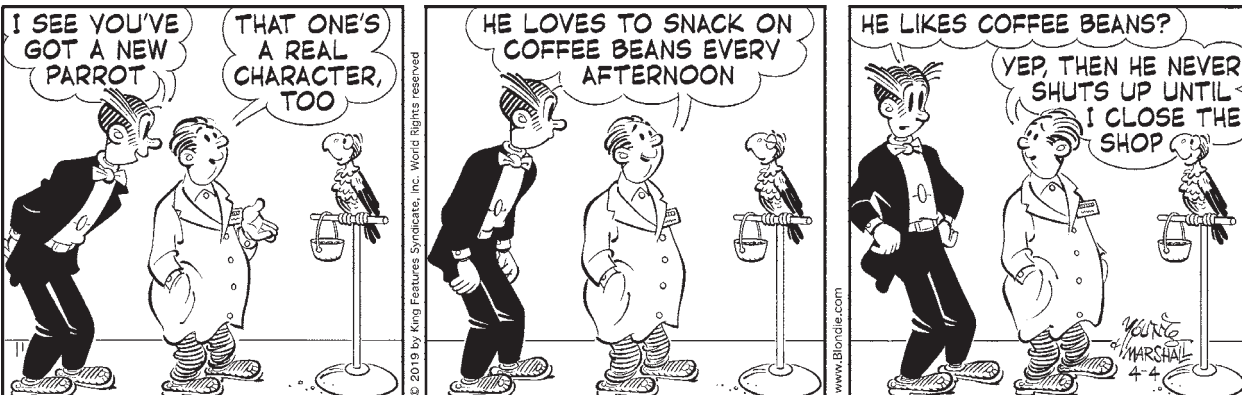
Mutts



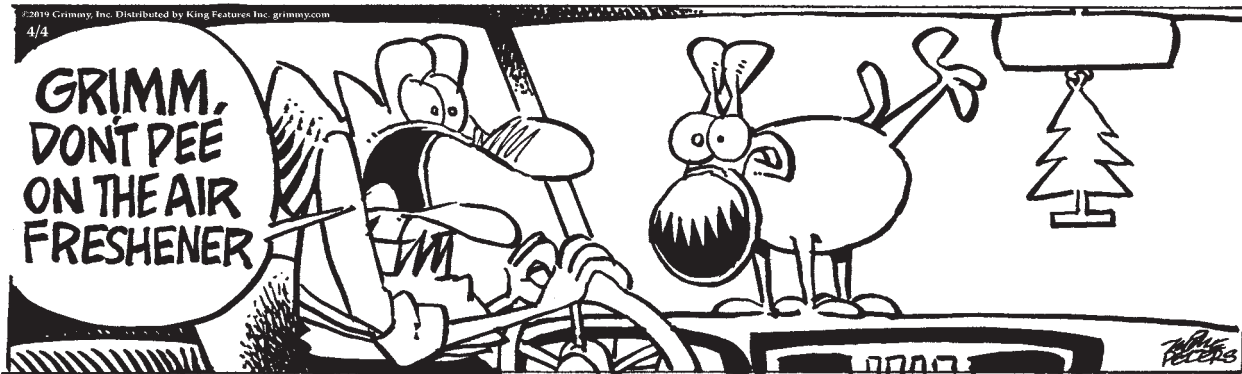
6 Chix



Blondie



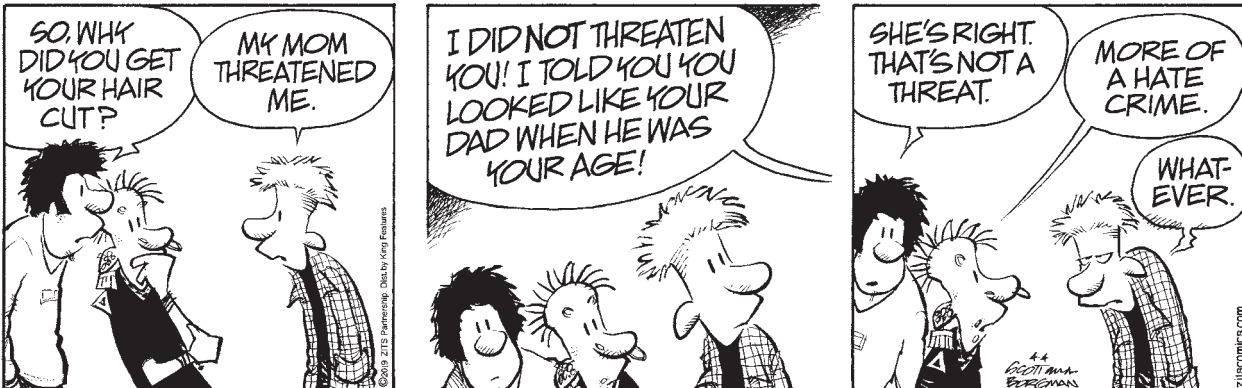
Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

4		9			5			
			2		3	6		
7				8			1	
	4						5	8
		1				4		
3	8						2	
	3			6				9
		2	3		4			
			5			8		4

Difficulty Level ★★★

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

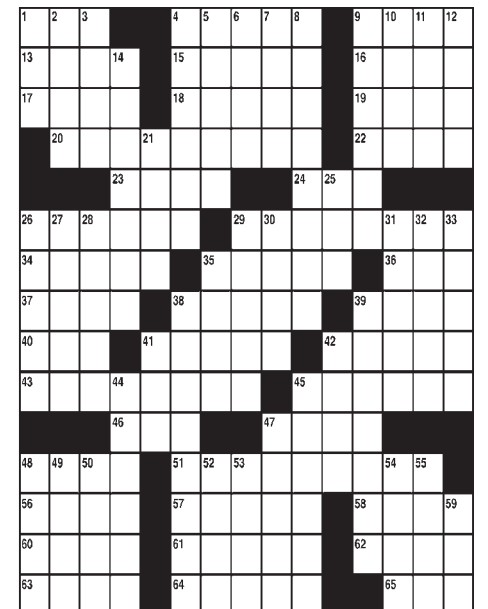
5	8	6	9	4	7	3	1	2
3	1	9	6	2	8	7	5	4
7	2	4	5	3	1	8	6	9
2	4	1	3	7	9	5	8	6
6	3	5	1	8	2	4	9	7
9	7	8	4	5	6	1	2	3
8	9	7	2	1	3	6	4	5
4	6	3	8	9	5	2	7	1
1	5	2	7	6	4	9	3	8

ACROSS

- Traffic tie-up
- Island nation south of Italy
- "Love handles"
- Poet Khayyám
- Hatred
- Lasso
- Three threes
- Cuban dance
- All ____; everywhere
- Unquestionably
- Bank teller's call
- ____ as a pin
- Feeling blue
- Like Jacuzzi waters
- Lesser-played part of a record
- Eating utensil
- Incline
- 36 2,000 pounds
- Give a heads-up to
- ____ to; because of
- Breathe heavily
- Genesis boat
- Sinatra, for one
- Winnie-the-Pooh's creator
- Baby bird
- Building column
- Wig
- Uninteresting
- First word, perhaps
- Entwine
- ____ West
- Lunchtimes
- VP Cheney's predecessor
- Waterproof covering
- Actress Dickinson
- Irish girl's name
- Facial features
- Appears on the horizon
- Actor Beatty

DOWN

- Voight or Stewart
- In the center of
- ____ War; champion thoroughbred



Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

ROY	AMBER	ECHO
RISE	SOUTH	SHOW
ACTS	CONCOCTION	
NOR	BERTH	HACKS
ALONE	PIT	
SECOND	FOREST	
ALIGN	SCOOP	TEA
GAZE	STALL	PEAR
ATE	SCALE	CHARM
EDITOR	FLIMSY	
RAT	TOOLS	
ARMOR	THIRD	HUT
REENTERING	RIFE	
CANE	MARGE	UPON
SPUD	SPEED	ESS

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- Plunder
- Spouse
- Reason to take
- Beatles song
- Forbidden thing
- African nation
- Shallowest of five
- Conclusion

Classifieds

Halley Time Travel

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2 BR Ocean Front \$27 K

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1 BR wk # 12 & 13

Building B 10

35 weeks remain on each

\$ 9000 each

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3 rd floor Pool/Ocean View

Sunday check in : \$9000 each

La Cabana Beach and Casino

Thursday check in

1 BR and Studio WK # 11, 12, 13

2nd floor garden view

1 BR \$8000, studio \$7000

Divi Village

Building C elevator

2 BR wk 13 \$14 K

3rd floor with 29/8 accelerated

weeks remain

1 BR WK # 14 \$7.5 K

1st floor with 16 weeks remain

La Cabana Beach and Casino

Sunday Check in

1 BR wk 11 & 12 \$18 K both

4th floor pool/ocean view

Friday check in

1 BR WK # 12

4 th floor \$ 9000

Garden/ocean view

CPV

Building A

1 BR wk 13 and 14

\$6000 each

Marriott Ocean Club

Platinum weeks

1 BR Ocean View \$ 11 K

2 BR Ocean View \$ 17 K

2 BR Ocean Front \$ 27 K

2615 destinations points \$21 K

Dutch Village

studio wk #12 & 13

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002

Urgent Care 586 0448

EMERGENCY

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Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

TAXI SERVICES

Taxi Tas	587 5900
Prof. Taxi	588 0035
Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
A1 Taxi Serv.	280 2828

TRAVEL INFO

Aruba Airport	524 2424
American Airlines	582 2700
Avianca	588 0059
Jet Blue	588 2244
Surinam	582 7896

CRUISES



April 4

Carnival Conquest

April 6

AIDAperla

Celebrity Reflection

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Alcoholics Anonymous
Tel. 736 2952

Narcotics Anonymous
Tel. 583 8989

Women in Difficulties
Tel. 583 5400

Centre for Diabetes
Tel. 524 8888

Child Abuse Prevention
Tel. 582 4433

Quota Club Tel. 525 2672

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Phone Directory Tel. 118

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U.S. investigates seizure risk with electronic cigarettes

By **MATTHEW PERRONE**

AP Health Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. health officials are investigating whether electronic cigarettes may trigger seizures in some people who use the nicotine-vaping devices.

The Food and Drug Administration said Wednesday it has reviewed 35 reports of seizures among e-cigarettes users, mainly in young people. Regulators stressed it's not yet clear whether vaping is responsible. But they said they're concerned and encouraged the public to report information about the issue. These cases warrant "investigation into whether there is in fact a connection," FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb said in a statement. Gottlieb is stepping down on Friday after nearly two years heading the agency.

Cases go back to 2010 and were reported to the FDA or poison control centers around the country. Regulators said they detected an uptick in reports beginning mid-2018. While they represent a tiny fraction of Americans who have used e-cigarettes, many safety



In this April 10, 2018, file photo, a high school principal displays vaping devices that were confiscated from students in such places as restrooms or hallways at the school in Massachusetts.

Associated Press

issues with foods, supplements and other consumer products can go unrecognized because reporting is voluntary.

Most e-cigarettes heat a flavored nicotine solution into an inhalable vapor. The battery-powered devices have grown into a multibillion dollar industry though there are few standards, including how much nicotine they deliver. Ad-

ditionally, many refillable e-cigarettes can be used with nicotine formulas of varying strength.

Nicotine poisoning can cause seizures, convulsions, vomiting and brain injury. The FDA has previously warned of potentially fatal nicotine poisoning in infants and children who accidentally swallowed nicotine solutions.

Seizures usually last a few

seconds or minutes and rarely cause permanent injury. But they can be a sign of underlying neurological disorders that need medical attention.

The agency said the handful of seizure reports often lack information about the brand of e-cigarette or whether users had a medical condition that might have contributed. In some cases, e-cigarettes were

being used with drugs like marijuana and amphetamines. Some seizures were reported after just a few puffs of the device, others after a day of use.

The FDA is asking consumers to report problems to an online site. The agency is seeking details about vaping brands and models and whether users who have experienced problems were also taking medications, supplements or other drugs.

It's not the first time the FDA has flagged a potential health hazard with vaping devices — the agency has warned of rare burns and explosions related to overheating of batteries that power the devices.

The latest concern comes amid a nationwide push to fight underage use of e-cigarettes, which have surged in popularity among high school and middle school students. Last month the FDA outlined new restrictions on retail and online sales of most flavored e-cigarettes. Meanwhile, local and state officials are considering age restrictions, taxes and flavor bans to keep the products away from teenagers. □



In this Thursday, Nov. 1, 2018 file photo, tourists walk in the flooded St. Mark's Square in Venice, Italy, as rainstorms and strong winds hit the area.

Associated Press

U.N. report: Extreme weather hit 62 million people in 2018

By **SETH BORENSTEIN**

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United Nations' weather agency says extreme weather last year hit 62 million people worldwide and forced 2 million people to relocate, as man-made climate change worsened. The World Meteorological Organization's annual state of global climate report says Earth is nearly 1.8 degrees Fahrenheit (1 degree Celsius) warmer than when the industrial age started. World leaders are trying to limit warming to 3.6 degrees (2 degrees Celsius).

Emissions from burning fuels such as coal, gasoline and diesel for electricity and transportation are contributing to global warming that in turn brings more intense storms, floods and droughts.

"We have seen a growing amount of disasters because of climate change," said WMO Secretary-General Petteri Taalas. He said since 1998, about 4.5 billion around the world have been hurt by extreme weather.

Cyclone Idai that just hit Mozambique is a

good example, but is too recent to be in the report, Taalas said.

The past four years were the warmest on record, according to the report. That includes 2018, the warmest La Nina year on record, Taalas said. La Nina, a natural cooling of parts of the Pacific Ocean that changes weather worldwide, usually cools global temperature a bit.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called on global leaders to convene in September with plans to reduce emissions. "I'm telling leaders, don't come with a speech, come with a plan," Guterres said. Guterres said climate change is a security and health issue for the world.

"The impact on public health is escalating," Guterres said. "The combination of extreme heat and air pollution is proving increasingly dangerous."

The 44-page report says:

—Floods affected 35 million people.

—Drought hit another 9 million people, adding to the problem of growing enough food to feed the world. □



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Exuberant Met exhibit explores the art of rock 'n' roll

By KATHERINE ROTH

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Museum exhibits tend to be quiet. Not this one.

In "Play It Loud," an exuberant show that can be heard as well as seen, the Metropolitan Museum of Art takes on the history of rock 'n' roll through iconic instruments on loan from some of rock's biggest names. There are flamboyant costumes worn by Prince and Jimmy Page, videotaped interviews with "guitar gods," even shattered guitars.

The show runs here from April 8 through Oct. 1 before traveling to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, in Cleveland, where it will be on view from Nov. 20, 2019 through Sept. 13, 2020.

"We're looking at rock 'n' roll instruments as an art. They serve as muses, tools and visual icons, and many of them are hand-painted and lovingly designed," says Jayson Kerr Dobney, curator in charge of the department of musical instruments at the Met. He organized "Play It Loud: Instruments of Rock and Roll," with Craig J. Inciardi, curator and director of acquisitions at the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

For anyone who ever dreamed of climbing on-



Guitars used by Jimi Hendrix, left, and Eric Clapton are displayed with concert posters at the exhibit "Play It Loud: Instruments of Rock & Roll," at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, Monday, April 1, 2019.

stage at a rock concert for a closer look, this may be your best shot.

"Instruments are some of the most personal objects connected to musicians, but as audience members we are primarily used to seeing them from far away, up on a stage in performance. This exhibition will provide a rare opportunity to examine some of rock 'n' roll's most iconic objects up close," says Dobney.

Highlights include Chuck Berry's ES-350T guitar (at the entrance to the exhibit), John Lennon's 12-string Rickenbacker 325, an electric 500/1 "violin" bass on loan from Paul McCartney, Keith Moon's drum set, and the white Stratocaster played at Woodstock by Jimi Hendrix.

Interviewed by The Associated Press on Monday, Page, the guitarist and founder of Led Zeppelin,

said that when curators approached him and explained their vision of the exhibit — you approach it through the Greco-Roman art galleries and then suddenly come upon Berry's guitar — he was all in.

"My guitar was confiscated if I took it to the school field to play," he says. "That's the kind of respect given to guitars in those days."

"So to see guitars from people I listen to, it's absolutely

phenomenal. It's humbling." Over 130 instruments are featured in the show, including ones played and beloved by the Beatles, Elvis Presley, Lady Gaga, Joan Jett, Metallica, Steve Miller, The Rolling Stones, Page and other rock 'n' roll greats. The collection spans 1939 to 2017. All the instruments are on loan, most by the musicians themselves, although Miller has promised to donate to the Met his 1961 Les Paul TV Special guitar, painted by surf-board artist Bob Cantrell. The show features its own rock 'n' roll soundtrack and is organized in thematic sections. "Setting the Stage" explores rock's early days in the American South of the late 1940s and early 1950s, when pianos, saxophones and acoustic guitars were among the instruments of choice. Soon, Berry helped revolutionize the sound, establishing the electric guitar as the genre's primary voice and visual icon.

Also featured is a setup like that used by the Beatles on "The Ed Sullivan Show" in 1964. After that performance, "thousands of rock bands were formed using that same lineup: two guitars, a bass and a drum set," says Dobney. □

Associated Press

Harlan Coben's 'Run Away' has an array of emotions

By JEFF AYERS

Associated Press

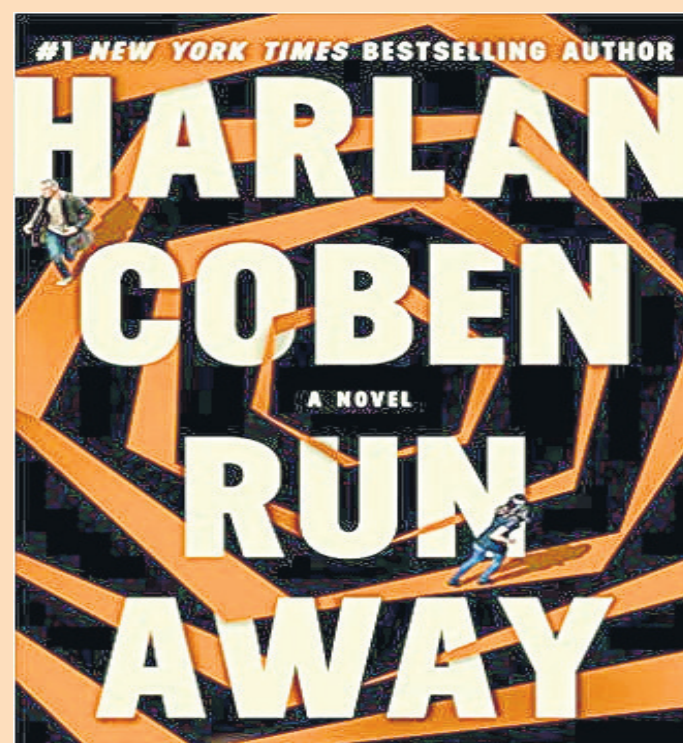
"Run Away" (Grand Central Publishing), by Harlan Coben

Simon works on Wall Street, and his wife, Ingrid, is a successful doctor. They had a wonderful family life until their oldest daughter, Paige, leaves to attend college. At first, things seem to be going well, but something happens that turns Paige into a drug addict and she runs off with her abusive dealer. Simon learns that Paige occasionally sings for money in Central Park. When he

approaches her, she runs. He goes after her, but her boyfriend and dealer, Aaron, confronts him. Simon punches him, and within moments bystanders tackle him and Aaron gets away. Simon soon becomes vilified on social media as the rich guy violently hitting an underprivileged person. For three months Simon waits for the furor to die down, always wondering if Paige is OK and hoping he can find her and get her the help she needs. Three months after the incident in Central Park, a police detective arrives at Simon's of-

fice with questions. Author Harlan Coben is a master at taking what seems to be an ordinary family and exposing the facade and secrets that are buried just below the surface. With "Run Away," his writing and storytelling are firing on all cylinders and the seemingly straightforward tale takes a sharp turn when it's least expected.

The narrative continues to navigate that twisty mountainous road until the shocking conclusion. The book has an array of emotions and an unpredictable outcome. □



This cover image released by Grand Central Publishing shows "Run Away," a novel by Harlan Coben.

Associated Press

How sweet the sound is in Aretha doc 'Amazing Grace'

By **JAKE COYLE**
Associated Press

After many dangers, toils and snares, the long-lost Aretha Franklin concert film "Amazing Grace" has finally seen the light, and good Lord is it good. Filmed over two sessions in January 1972 at the New Temple Missionary Baptist Church in the Watts section of Los Angeles, it captures Franklin at the absolute apex of her power. The

colossal accompanying double LP, which didn't suffer the same fate as the footage, is already justly revered and remains the best-selling gospel record of all time. But to see it is to believe. This is gospel ecstasy.

For a long time, "Amazing Grace" was one of the great unseen white whales of cinema. The film — shot with 16mm cameras by a then up-and-coming direc-



This image released by Neon shows Aretha Franklin in a scene from the film, "Amazing Grace." Associated Press

tor named Sydney Pollack — sat for decades in studio vaults because Pollack forgot to slate his footage, leaving the sound and pictures unsynchronized. He left the mess behind and moved on to make "The Way We Were."

After Pollack died in 2008, Alan Elliott took over the film, had it synced, and had David Arnold edit it. (Elliott is credited for having produced and "realized" the film.) But efforts to release the documentary were stymied by Franklin who sued the filmmakers to prevent festival screenings in 2015 and 2016. It finally premiered three months after Franklin's death last year, with her estate's blessing. It's now arriving in theaters, 47 years later.

The great concert films are often elevated by concept ("Stop Making Sense") or occasion ("The Last Waltz"). But "Amazing Grace" is lifted not by the production, which is a little shambling; or the staging, which is an afterthought. No, "Amazing Grace" is sent heavenward almost entirely by Franklin's soul-shattering voice and the frenzy worked up by the Southern California Community Choir, Rev. James Cleveland (a legend, himself, who presided over the performance), the limber choir director Rev. Alexander Hamilton, and a small (largely unseen) rhythm section of top-flight R&B

players. It's overwhelming. Singing from the pulpit, Franklin's supreme virtuosity takes on biblical proportions. So glorious is she, then 29 and already in such staggering command of her instrument, that "Amazing Grace" — if you weren't dancing and hollering — would be hard to watch standing. Aretha will knock you flat.

Part of the fun of "Amazing Grace" is watching not just those in the thrall of Franklin (Mick Jagger can be seen bopping in the back of the church) but witnessing the awe Franklin evokes. Members of the choir stand countless times to spur her on: "Sing it!" Franklin's father, a blue-suited Rev. C.L. Franklin, addresses the congregation (where Clara Ward sits in the front pew) to try, with halting eloquence, to measure his daughter's great talent. "Aretha is just a stone singer," he says.

At one point, an overcome Cleveland, sitting down in exhaustion and dabbing his forehead, exasperatedly tosses his handkerchief — a white flag of surrender — at Franklin in mid-song. It lands on the camera.

An inexperienced documentarian, Pollack isn't as perceptive as, say D.A. Pennebaker was in "Monterey Pop." But he has the good sense to push in close on Franklin. "Amazing Grace" is best when her face, sweaty and blissful

in song, fills the frame. She nearly glows.

The concerts were a return to gospel roots for Franklin after a string of hits for Atlantic Records. Her father, one of the most prominent black preachers of his day and a close friend of Martin Luther King Jr., had raised her preaching both of God and black pride. So when Franklin here performs "Never Grow Old," she's singing one of the first songs she ever recorded, at age 15. Secular numbers ("You've Got a Friend") are mixed in with gospel staples like an exhilarating "Mary Don't You Weep" and a majestic, 10-minutes-long "Amazing Grace." Blues and gospel merge euphorically. It's easy to wonder while watching "Amazing Grace" what Franklin ever objected to. Did she simply resent that the filmmakers bungled its making? There remains some mystery around Franklin in the film, a shadow of sorrow seen only when she isn't singing. Franklin says virtually nothing throughout, appearing preternaturally calm in between songs. Is that simply out of respect for the setting? Was she somehow not at ease during the film's making, at least when the music wasn't playing? Or is it more like what John Updike said about Ted Williams not doffing his cap to fans after a home run? Just as gods do not answer letters, queens don't curtsy. □

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 JORGE PABÓN FAUSTO MATA LOS DOMIRRIQUEÑOS 2 SPANISH WITH ENGLISH SUBTITLES MON-THU & SUN 3:45 8:30 FRI-SAT 3:45 8:30 10:45	 BRIE LARSON SAMUEL L. JACKSON CAPTAIN MARVEL WITH SPANISH SUBTITLES MON-SUN 6:30 9:15

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Some ideas for treating a favored newborn like royalty

By **LEANNE ITALIE**
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Your sister, best friend or beloved cousin just had her first baby and you'd like to treat your favored newborn to some luxury.

But where to begin?

Where you live and how you shop — online only, swanky department stores or exclusive boutiques — will help determine your options, along with the fast-moving local trends where your little "royal" resides. The mindset of baby's parents also matters. Do they have traditional taste? Are they modernists? Is laid-back chic, chemical free or New Age more their style?

In celebration of the upcoming birth of the first baby for Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, some gear and gift ideas to get you started:

PRAM OR STROLLER

What does actual royalty use? Well, in Britain it's usually Silver Cross. Founded in 1877, the company has been bouncing royal babies in their fancy prams since the birth of King George VI. Prince Charles got around in one when he was born and now the three children of Prince William and the Duchess of



This combination photo shows Britain's Princess Charlotte in Victoria, British Columbia, on Oct. 1, 2016, from left, in Hamburg, Germany on July 21, 2017, at St Mary's Hospital in London on April 23, 2018 and at the Chapel Royal, St James's Palace in London, on July 9, 2018.

Cambridge, Kate Middleton, have shared their Silver Cross ride.

The company has lots of options if you can't afford the top of the line, hand-built Silver Cross Surf Aston Martin, for example. It's available at Harrods for about \$4,000, as is the Marie-Chantal Kensington for nearly \$2,000. They convert from carry pram to stroller. Silver Cross is available in stores around the world, including the United States. Too rich for your blood, or simply not the right vibe? Go for UPPAbaby (one in the Vista collection with a bassinet runs nearly \$1,000) or a fun and funky Bugaboo.

The convertible Track collection from Bugaboo sells for up to \$2,000 or so, depending on add-ons.

ROYAL DUDS

Let's cut to the chase. While thoroughly modern Meghan may choose less traditional looks for her No. 7 in line for the throne, sister-in-law Kate has some favorite British brands for her brood, including No. 3 Prince George and little sis Charlotte.

The bite-size princess is quite the fashion influencer, with some of her smock dresses selling out in just a few hours.

Some of Kate's brands: Amaia (Charlotte's \$184 burgundy coat for her first

day of school), Pepa & Co. (George's whale jumper — think sweater — when he was 3) and My 1st Years, because who can forget that adorable monogrammed robe George sported to meet then-President Barack Obama? Kate's choices aren't always hugely pricey, so don't sweat it.

And for Meghan's royal bundle? Meghan the American. Meghan the Californian. Petit Tresor has all manner of gear, nursery furniture and baby blankets, including monogrammed cashmere blankets with crochet trim for up to \$700. Elegant Child of Beverly Hills has a selection

of Charlotte-worthy party dresses in the \$380 to \$480 range.

For the feet? Perhaps the Duchess of Sussex will hop on the Freshly Picked bandwagon and outfit her baby in a pair of \$60 "it" fringe moccasin-style soft shoes. There's a wide range to choose from.

SILVER SPOONS AND SUCH

There's always that gift option of a keepsake. Take your pick at Tiffany & Co. for silver spoons, cups and baby brushes. Don't miss the company's earthenware banks for \$125. They include elephants, pigs and bunnies.

Queen Elizabeth II, the Duchess of Cambridge and various other royals and celebrities have been spotted at London's high-end Fortnum & Mason department store. Online, you can find the timeless Harmony Barbell Rattle for 140 British pounds. It's hand-tuned. It has 16 tones. It's crafted from German silver with an ample covering of sterling for added strength.

How about you hunt down a rare edition of a children's classic book? Let Abebooks.com drop some knowledge on that. Search the site for the world's most valuable editions. □

Khalid returns with a superb, moody sophomore album

By **MARK KENNEDY**
Associated Press

Khalid, "Free Spirit" (RCA/Right Hand Music Group) Khalid charmed us on his debut album by singing about being young, dumb and broke. None of that is accurate on his excellent sophomore effort.

The pop-soul-R&B star who knocked down many people out with 2017's "American Teen" is 21 now — still young, sure, but no longer a teen — and he's far from broke now. And we find him on his full-length second album wrestling with deep stuff. The guy who worried a few years ago that his mom would kill him because his car smelled like marijuana is now singing "I shouldn't have to die to feel alive."

"Free Spirit" is a fuller, layered 17-track album of unrushed, somber pop from an artist extending his wings and proving why he's one of the most exciting voices in music today. On the funky "Paradise," he acknowledges his maturity: "I've been thinking a little deeper/contemplation, getting cleaner."

Two of the better tracks, "Better" and "Saturday Nights," appeared on Khalid's recent EP "Suncity" and he reunites with producers Charlie Handsome and Digi, who co-wrote many of the tracks. Though lately he's been collaborating with everyone from Halsey to Kane Brown, Khalid keeps the guest list light here (though John Mayer supplies nifty guitar work on

"Outta My Head.") Khalid's sound has evolved and so has the fuller production elements. If in the past he used just a little piano or a guitar lick, now he nestles his voice in hazy clouds of warm synth, murky echoes and usually some distorted effects. He lays down overlapping vocals, adds twisty bits of electronica and employs his falsetto to great effect. At times, Khalid gets so introspective that the listener might feel like they've stumbled into a therapy session. "The man that I've been running from is inside of me/I tell him keep it quiet," he sings on "Self."

We were warned "Free Spirit" would be a very personal album from the opening song, "Intro," where Khalid sings: "I can't even live



This cover image released by Right Hand Music Group/RCA Records shows "Free Spirit," a release by Khalid.

Associated Press

with being by myself/That's the part of me that really needs your help." But, to

be honest, when it comes to making superb music, he doesn't need any help. □

TSA's social media highlight weird stuff in travelers' bags

By COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — David Johnston stands over a table full of peculiar items confiscated at Dulles International Airport: a glittery clutch with brass knuckles as a clasp. A perfume bottle shaped like a grenade. A rusted circular saw blade. A pocket-sized pitchfork. None of those is quite right. Then Johnston sees it: a guitar shaped like a semi-automatic rifle. Bingo. It will do nicely for the Transportation Security Administration's social media accounts.

Johnston, TSA's social media director, is following in the footsteps of Curtis "Bob" Burns, who created unlikely internet buzz for the not-always-beloved agency by showcasing the weirdest stuff travelers pack in their carry-ons. He died suddenly in October at age 48.

Burns' work created a model for other federal agencies. The quirky photos combined with a hefty dose of dad humor helped lure in more than a million followers on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, who would then see important messages about the dos and don'ts of airline travel. "How are we going to replace Bob? The reality is we can't," said Johnston. "We had a unique situation with him, but we can still be entertaining and help people as we find our way forward without him."

On the blog, Burns shared a weekly count of firearms



Items, prohibited on passenger airlines, and confiscated from passengers by Transportation Security Administration (TSA) officers, is displayed at Dulles International Airport in Dulles, Va., Tuesday, March 26, 2019.

that TSA officers found at checkpoints nationwide. He did a summary of knives and all matter of other bizarre and sometimes scary items that travelers had stuffed into their bags, pockets, purses or briefcases.

In one Instagram post, someone tried to bring on a glove with razors for fingers and Burns (naturally) made a "Nightmare on Elm Street" joke.

"It's safe to sleep on Elm Street again. Freddy lost his glove at the Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport (ATL)."

The agency's Instagram account won three Webby awards last year, including the People's Voice Award

for weird social content marketing. In his acceptance speech, Burns eyed the award, shook it and declared: "This Webby is carry-on approved!" Johnston, who worked with Burns for about three years, and has been in government jobs for nearly a decade, has tried to keep it up all on his own, but it's been tough.

Johnston sent out a Valentine's Day post that showed off a throwing star, ax and double-edged dagger confiscated from a passenger's carry-on bag. ("Safe travels, you romantic fool!") And it was national puppy day recently, so that was an excuse for a photo of Cole, a big-eyed TSA explosives detection dog.

TSA is growing its social media staff — bringing in three more workers to expand its social media presence. The staff will continue to use fodder sent in by officers around the country, who seize all manner of unusual items people try to bring onboard. But it's hard to find people who have both the government know-how and a sense of humor that resonates.

Johnston said the thing that made Burns' posts so special was Burns himself.

"When you look at his posts, you're seeing a window into his soul," he said. "It re-

was partly due to the shock value.

"People don't come to a government Instagram account and expect to see humor," Burns said. "And they also don't expect to see these crazy things that people are trying to bring on a plane." He had a wife and two daughters.

At Dulles, in the prohibited items section, Johnston sees a few possibilities for TSA's YouTube series called "They Brought What?" including a large snow globe with big a white fairy imprisoned in some kind of liquid (It's creepy and it has liquid, so they can highlight the liquid restrictions.)

He passes over the four pairs of nunchucks (Yawn. You can't believe how many people bring those) and a handful of pocket knives. He stops at a large bullet from Afghanistan that has been altered to be a cigarette lighter and pen.

"The things people think of," he says. Turning more serious for a moment, Johnston notes the importance of showing off these items, especially to people who aren't well-traveled and might not understand why something is prohibited if it's not actually a weapon. "The bottom line is our social media page makes travelers better informed so they have a better experience and it frees up our officers to do what they need to do — look for the bad actors," he says. □

Associated Press

ally was from his heart. He was a fun, happy guy." Burns' sister-in-law, Candy Creech, said he had a dry sense of humor and a hefty dose of patriotism: He had served in the Gulf War. Burns had worked in airports before taking over TSA's social media and believed there was public negativity around the agency. He wanted to change that. "And I think he felt he could change that by communicating with people in a way that wasn't scolding," she said. "He was one of a kind."

During a TSA Facebook live, "Ask Me Anything" episode last year, Burns said the success of the account



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